

JANUARY 1, 1881

THE GRAPHIC

ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

No. 579.—Vol. XXIII.

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"THE HAUNTED ARMOURY"
BY PERCY MACQUOID

THE GRAPHIC

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

NO. 579.—VOL. XXIII.
Regd. at General Post Office as a Newspaper]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1881

WITH EXTRA SUPPLEMENT [PRICE SIXPENCE
Or by Post Sixpence Halfpenny]



THE NEW YEAR IN IRELAND—“AWAITING HIS RETURN”

A long-continued absence now
May mean far more than mere delay,
Therefore we stand and wonder how
It haps that he is still away;
And as the daylight quits the skies,
Our hopes sink down, our fears arise.

For, as the night begins to fall,
Some caitiff wretch may creep abroad
To lurk behind the roadside-wall,
And think he does the will of God,
When, in obedience to command,
He slays the owner of the land.

Hark! did I hear a distant gun?
A cry, a groan, an angry word?
Oh! God of Heaven, Thy Will be done,
Yet be Thou merciful, oh Lord!
Hear Thou our heart-felt Litany,
Send him back safe to her and me.

Topics of the Week

ENGLISH OPINION, THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE LAND LEAGUE.—It should not be forgotten that the people who write to the newspapers, and who describe so forcibly the doings of the Irish Terrorists, belong to what are called the well-educated classes, who in these days do not exercise political supremacy. There can be little doubt that if the centre of political power lay now where it lay twenty years since, sharp and decisive remedies would have been applied some months ago to Irish anarchy and disorder. Now, in spite of all the indignant letters and newspaper articles which have been written, it is very doubtful whether up to the present time among the classes who control the constituencies there is any strong feeling of anger against the Government for conduct which to the wealthier classes appears utterly inexcusable. It is very difficult to get at the sentiments of this vast and overwhelming body of persons, but we judge that they think, first, that whatever Mr. Gladstone does must be right; and secondly, that while disapproving of assassination and cattle-houging and Boycotting, they believe Irish landlords have brought much of this trouble on themselves. If our supposition be correct, we cannot be surprised, however angry we and others like us may feel, that a Government which was floated into power on a wave of Radical enthusiasm should hesitate to offend its Radical adherents. It is quite possible, then, that when Parliament meets the Government may refrain from bringing in any coercive measures, and may resolve to try and calm the tempest now raging by remedial legislation only. The general impression appears to be that the celebrated Three F's will form the platform of their Land Reform proposals. Then comes the question whether the Land Leaguers will accept these proposals; for if they do not, an unnatural combination of Tories, Whigs, and Home Rulers may defeat the Government, and leave Ireland in a state of greater unrest than ever. Without doubt there is a party among the Land Leaguers who want a great deal more than the Three F's. They want Ireland to be entirely independent, or to be annexed to the United States. Has this extreme party a considerable following in Ireland; or are the mass of the tenant-farmers content to retain the Imperial connection, provided they get their land-grievances satisfied? More light will probably be thrown on this important inquiry during the coming Session.

THEN AND NOW.—Several prominent foreign newspapers, writing of the prospects of the New Year, have taken a very sombre view of the general "situation;" and certainly the facts do not warrant cheerful anticipations. When the movement for the reorganisation of Europe and for reform in individual States began about half a century ago, there was hardly any limit to the hopes of those by whom the movement was started. Now, most of the objects for which these energetic optimists struggled have been attained. Both Italy and Germany are now consolidated; France is a Republic of an advanced type; tyranny is unknown in Austria; and all over Western, Central, and Southern Europe political institutions are being brought into harmony with the most enlightened modern ideas. Yet it can hardly be said that mankind are much happier than they were fifty years since. Germany and France regard each other with more bitter enmity than at any previous period; Austria and Italy are anything but friendly; the proceedings of Russia are watched with jealousy by all her neighbours and rivals; and Socialism threatens to bring revolution upon a great part of the civilised world. At almost any moment a convulsion may be produced by some unforeseen phase of the Eastern Question; and we, who have so long boasted of our progress, are actually confronted by a revolutionary agitation of the most menacing character in Ireland. These circumstances must surely be disheartening enough to the most ardent reformer. They do not show that all improvement is illusory; but they do indicate that real improvement is painfully slow, and that the process is not always hastened by large philanthropic schemes.

THE TRANSVAAL.—The manner of the Boers' revolt seems not quite so bad as was at first reported. If they had surprised and massacred in cold blood a party of soldiers who were not even expecting an armed attack, their conduct would be nearly on a par with that of the mutinous Sepoys in 1857. But, as it is, the business is dismal and lamentable enough. In a region where the white man has nearly always a hard struggle to maintain himself against the blacks, and at a time when the Cape Colonists (without Imperial aid) are engaged in a desperate struggle with the Basutos, it is most lamentable that men of European parentage, and professing the Christian religion, should be shedding each other's blood. It should be remembered that the annexation of the Boers' territory was effected to save them from the consequences of their own rashness. They were on the point of being overwhelmed by the savages. Perhaps the annexation was a mistake, but it was an excusable mistake, and (except as regards wars with the natives) the Boers enjoyed practical, if not nominal, independence. Now, however, that the sword has been drawn, England cannot make any further conces-

sions, and the struggle must go on, either till the Boers conquer their independence or till we reduce them to submission.

GEORGE ELIOT.—It is not often that the death even of a great writer stirs such profound regret as was excited by the announcement that George Eliot had passed away. By universal consent she held the first place among living novelists; and there can be no doubt that her name will go down to posterity beside those of the most illustrious writers of our era. There were many indications in her later works that her genius had lost its original power and freshness; but the defects of "Theophrastus Such" and "Daniel Deronda" could not make the world forget the charm of "Adam Bede," "The Mill on the Floss," and "Silas Marner." Her most important writings display an extraordinary range and vigour of imagination. Poetry in the highest sense was beyond her reach; but on a lower level her creations have a vitality which is hardly surpassed by the conceptions of Shakespeare himself. She usually placed her characters in very ordinary circumstances; yet such was the force of her genius that she was able to reflect in these circumstances the movements of the deepest passions and aspirations. It may be questioned whether any other novelist, either in England or elsewhere, has made the novel a medium for expressing so many profound truths; for expressing them, too, in a form which appeals more impressively to the imagination than to the reason. The direct object of a work of art is, of course, not instruction but pleasure; but in the hands of the greatest masters art has never been dissociated from reflection on the problems of human destiny, and George Eliot's reflection on these problems was, perhaps, as fruitful and suggestive as that of any imaginative thinker of the present century. It is incredible that this element of her work will ever lose its interest, since the laws which she expounds and illustrates are not those of a particular time and country merely, but the laws which have regulated the whole course of social development.

JURYMEN.—A once-hackneyed saying, less often heard now than formerly, declared that the jury-box was the palladium of British liberty. This sentiment would be equally and perhaps more true if its terms were reversed, and if it was stated that without liberty the jury-box would be a mockery. There were so-called jurymen during the Reign of Terror in France, but they were not genuine representatives of the nation: they were a set of scoundrels appointed by a clique, and receiving half-a-crown a day for sending as many aristocrats as possible to the guillotine. On the other hand, the system of Trial by Jury manifestly breaks down unless the community generally are prepared to uphold the law. Throughout the greater part of Ireland at the present time the jury system is quite ineffective to deal with agrarian offences. Individual freedom of action and opinion has been completely crushed out by the invisible yet most powerful machinery of Terrorism. It is unpleasant enough to be a judge under such conditions, but it is far worse to be a jurymen, who lives on the spot to which the accused and his adherents belong, and who knows that if he gives a verdict according to his conscience he will run the risk of maltreatment and "Boycotting," if not of assassination. Jurymen are only men, and cannot fairly be expected to act in a manner which demands a rare amount both of moral and physical courage. It must be presumed, however, that the Government take a more sanguine view of the pluck and conscientiousness of Irish jurymen, or they would never have undertaken these State Trials. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and if that part of the prosecuting chain represented by the jury breaks down, the whole or this solemn ceremonial will have been a mischievous mockery. At vast trouble and expense the Government will have provided each of the traversers with a well-fitting and comfortable crown of martyrdom. We hope we may be wrong, but let him who reads this put himself in the place of one of those unlucky twelve men in the Dublin jury box, and think how many and powerful are the influences which will incline him to acquit the accused.

ARBITRATION.—There has been no break in the negotiations for the settlement of the Greek claims by means of arbitration. So far, however, they do not seem to have been attended by much success. The Porte has been remarkably reticent with regard to this particular proposal; but there is a general, and probably well founded, impression that it does not regard the scheme with much favour. As for Greece, she loudly proclaims that she will have nothing to do with arbitration, and that she will have the whole of the territory marked out for her by the Berlin Conference or nothing. If the plan, after all, is successful, it will of course mean that the matter has been arranged beforehand; both Greece and Turkey pledging themselves to abate their pretensions. It is to be hoped this result will be attained; but at present the chances appear to be all the other way. Europe can hardly expect that the Porte will surrender Janina, which is of the highest importance as a fortified position. The Greeks, however, assert in the most emphatic manner that the cession of Janina is absolutely indispensable, and that no bribe or threat will ever induce them to resign their claims to it. They are warned by the Powers that if they declared war

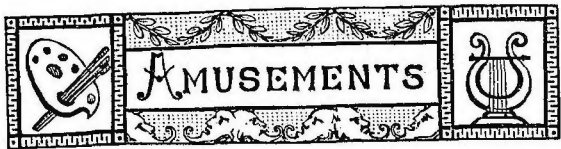
they would expose themselves to a terrible risk; but their reply is that, in their opinion, the risk is exaggerated, since England and France could not honourably permit them to suffer serious disaster. Besides, the "nationalities" are all making ready for a final attack on Turkey. Greece supposes that the knowledge of this fact would cause the Sultan to give way at the last moment, and that if he did not a general rising against him would ensure her success.

FRENCH THRIFT.—On the occasion of the election of a new member to the French Academy the other day M. Caro paid an eloquent tribute to the industry of Paris. He pointed out a fact which tourists are apt to forget, namely, that the loungers of the Boulevards and the idlers of the Palais Royal form but a very small section of the population. The remainder are some of the hardest-working people in the world. And in this respect Paris is merely representative of France generally. The French are a most industrious people. Moreover, they are not only industrious, they are thrifty, which the English are not. Nearly everybody, from the banker to the rag-picker, has got money saved up. This is, of course, the secret of the ease with which M. Thiers effected "the liberation of the territory." Not merely the big financiers and capitalists, but the people came forward with their *rouleaux* of francs, and the detested "spiked helmets" were speedily sent out of the country. Supposing London and the richest half of the island lay equally in the grip of some conquering foreigner, could we as easily pay up a staggering indemnity? We doubt it. Here, it is to be feared, it is rather the exception than the rule to have anything laid up for a rainy day. Let us hope that the new postal facilities for saving and investing, added to the spread of establishments for the sale of non-intoxicants, may teach us thrift.

POLITICAL WARFARE IN FRANCE.—A good many Frenchmen must be heartily ashamed of the means which are now freely used in France by political opponents to do each other injury. M. Rochefort appears to think that the best way of serving his "cause" is to talk scandal about persons of whose opinions he disapproves; but even he may be surpassed, as was shown by the letter about M. de Girardin which was read in the Chamber the other day. It was not considered enough to proclaim him a Prussian spy; General de Cissey having already been made to play this part, it was deemed necessary to denounce M. de Girardin as head of all the Prussian spies in Paris. The calumny was too wild to deserve serious attention; but it indicated in an extreme form the temper which is almost universal among French partisans. An ordinary Frenchman apparently finds it hard to believe that any one who holds a political theory different from his own can be an honest man. A Republican, thinks the Bonapartist, must be a rogue; the Republican of course "returns the compliment;" and the Legitimist is firmly convinced that both are on much the same level of moral depravity. It is the violence of these political antipathies that makes it so difficult for Frenchmen to forecast the future of their country. A stable form of government can hardly be established without compromise; and compromise cannot be expected from men who regard each other as villains. The truth is that the passions of the Revolutionary period have not yet died out. That great convulsion gave so terrific a shock to every element of French life that the nation still suffers from some of its direct consequences.

OPIMUM.—We note that the use of opium prevails greatly in Chicago, and it is to be feared that if our own druggists were to make open confession, especially in some of our manufacturing towns, they could tell strange tales about the use or abuse of narcotics. This, in its epidemic form, is quite a modern phase of intemperance, and is probably at bottom due to the ill health caused by the atmospheric impurities, the late hours, the excitement, and the other evils, avoidable or unavoidable, of city life. It is well known that habitual gin-tipping is traceable to similar causes. Their miserable surroundings make people feel out of sorts. They fly to gin for relief, and of course the indulgence of the habit keeps them poor, and prevents them from migrating to healthier but more costly dwellings. With regard to opium, we think that no small amount of mischief has been done by doctors, who have prescribed chloral and such-like powerful drugs for sleeplessness and the maladies thereto allied. Persons, too, who live in towns, and who have to perform sedentary or non-muscular work in ill-ventilated rooms, often fall into that state of health (especially if they belong to the weaker sex) where opiates become an inestimable solace. We can but recommend, in view of this danger, such an observance of the laws of health as even poor city people can comply with; for example, plentiful washing in cold water, moderate daily exercise regardless of weather, and as early rising and going to bed as is compatible with their occupations. Those who live thus may defy the fascinations of the juice of the poppy.

NOTICE.—With this number is issued an EXTRA SUPPLEMENT, entitled, "THE HAUNTED ARMOURY," by PERCY MACQUOID, forming the FRONTISPIECE to VOL. XXII.—Next week the TITLE PAGE and INDEX to VOL. XXII. will be published.



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15, RUE BLEUE, PARIS.



THE LAND AGITATION IN IRELAND

THERE was very little excitement in Dublin, and no attempt at any adverse demonstration, on Tuesday, when the State Trial of Mr. Parnell and his fellow traversers was commenced. The first incident in Court was the retirement of Lord Chief Justice May, who stated that he did so because he thought it well to remove every element that might tend to disturb the calm and dispassionate consideration of the case, at the same time declaring that his meaning had been "curiously misconstrued," that he was not conscious of any bias in the case, and that in deciding upon the course he had resolved to take he was uninfluenced either by public invective or secret menace. He then left the Court, Mr. Justice Fitzgerald and Mr. Justice Barry remaining on the Bench, and the preliminary formalities were proceeded with. Of the twenty-four jurymen summoned only eighteen answered to their names, and these were reduced by challenge on the traversers' side, two technical objections raised by the Attorney General being overruled in their favour. The jury ultimately chosen consists of eight Roman Catholics, three Protestants, and one Quaker. Mr. David Ross, Q.C., opened the pleadings, explaining the nature of the nineteen counts contained in the indictment, and the Attorney-General commenced his statement of the case for the Crown which he continued when the Court again sat on Wednesday and Thursday. The traversers are well provided for the defence so far as money goes, the amount of the fund being 10,000l.

On Monday the Home Rule party held a meeting in Dublin under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. Mr. Parnell was re-elected as leader, and in view of the probability of his not being able to fulfil his Parliamentary duties, a vice-chairman was for the first time appointed in the person of Mr. Justin McCarthy, and a resolution giving power to the Parliamentary Committee to direct the policy and action of the party upon any emergency, measure, or proposition upon which the party itself had not previously met and decided, was passed, though not without some malcontent talk about "iron despotism." Some of Mr. Parnell's admirers drew him in his cab to and from the meeting to his hotel, and he was much cheered along the way.

The general condition of the country is not in any way improved, Boycotting is widely extending, and a number of fresh outrages are reported. At Londonderry a soldier of the Fifteenth Regiment has received two wounds in the breast from a revolver; at Cork two policemen on patrol were shot at, and one badly wounded; and another policeman was shot and much injured at Cappawhite, County Tipperary. The Rev. Canon Fleming, Rector of Ballinakill, Galway, was twice fired at on his way home from church on Sunday, and two ladies, Miss Ellard of Newtown, Ellard, Limerick, and the daughter of the Hon. Mrs. Dunlop, of Monasterbone, County Louth, have also been fired at while driving homeward from visiting. The last mentioned lady is stated to have pursued her cowardly assailant for some distance, and to have secured the gun which he threw away in his flight; whilst Miss Ellard fired three shots at the miscreant who had sought her life, and then giving her revolver to her coachman, told him to unyoke the horse and follow him, which, however, he said it would be useless to do because it was growing dark.

On Tuesday three men, named Michael and William Burke and John Hanberry, were arrested at Clombur for alleged complicity in the murder of Lord Mountmorres. At Clare, King's County, seventeen persons have been committed for trial on a charge of rioting and "Boycotting" Mr. Charles Dudgeon, after a man had been sentenced to twenty years' penal servitude for shooting at him.

The *Junco* steamer, outward bound from Cork to Baltimore with a large quantity of obsolete carbines and revolvers on board, last week put back into the Shannon in a disabled condition, and her cargo was at once seized by the military. She is the same vessel which was some time ago boarded at Passage by a party of Fenians, who carried off a number of rifles. Another vessel, the *Industry*, is detained in the Sloyne, some casks of ammunition having been discovered on board amongst the cargo. Hints have been thrown out that some of the Royal Irish Constabulary are not so loyal as could be desired, but no evidence of any disaffection existing in the ranks has yet been forthcoming. Dublin is now very strongly garrisoned, and double guards are mounted at the Castle. In view of the possibility of the gas mains being interfered with, the military and police have been provided with lanterns and candles.

Our engravings may be very briefly treated. That on the front page is sufficiently explained by the stanzas printed beneath the title. It is, of course, an imaginative picture, as is also "The Widow and the Assassin," in which the artist depicts the meeting of the bereaved wife and children of the victim of an agrarian outrage with the conscience-stricken murderer. "A Bog Cabin," on the next page, shows the sort of dwellings inhabited by the peasantry of Roscommon. In "Her Majesty's Highway" we see how an outrage can be committed in broad daylight with impunity; all persons in the neighbourhood being wilfully blind and deaf for the time being. "How Subscriptions are Collected" is a real incident. The occupants of the cabin awaited in terror the return of some men who had just passed, after firing shots in the air, and ordering money to be placed on the window-sill "for the League," as they said, though they were probably free-lances who had no connection with the organisation of which Mr. Parnell is the leader, there being many such now trading on the fears of the peasant population. We have next, the residence of Mr. Bence Jones, whose name is likely to become as famous in connection with the agitation as that of Captain Boycott. Mr. Jones owns 4,000 acres of land, and farms 1,000, and he is now "Boycotted" on account of a quarrel with some of his tenants, the merits of which we need not here discuss, his own statements and

those of the Rev. Mr. O'Leary and others, who flatly contradict him, being already familiar to the public through the daily papers. We may say, however, that he has declined Mr. Forster's offer of military protection, and has stated that, like Captain Boycott, he has received several offers of aid to work his farm. "Erecting a Police Hut." This incident occurred on the 30th of November at New Pallas, where an attempt having been made to reinstate an evicted farmer, and two bailiffs having been assaulted, the constabulary were sent down to build a hut and a loop-holed wall for its protection. A large mob assembled and prevented this being done, but when nearly 300 soldiers appeared on the scene, accompanied by some seventy constables, the people, overawed by the display of military force, allowed the work to proceed without the slightest attempt at resistance or even remonstrance.

PRACTISING WITH THE NORDENFELDT GUN ON BOARD H.M.S. "MONARCH"

THE Nordenfeldt gun is a species of machine gun or mitrailleuse, and has been adopted by our Naval authorities for the main purpose of repelling torpedo boats, which, having been built to resist a volley of rifle bullets, are clad in steel armour. This, however, according to the recent experiments, is not sufficiently strong to resist the Nordenfeldt, which, with its four barrels, can fire twelve solid steel shot per minute. The barrels are consequently exceedingly stoutly made, being more than three inches in external diameter, where strength is most needed, providing a thickness of metal adapted for the employment of gun-cotton cartridges. The gun is very rapid in action, it is traversed and elevated by simple appliances, and it has made most accurate shooting even at long ranges. Its stand, as may be seen in our engraving, is very heavily mounted on a bed of iron, the mechanism of the breech is worked by electricity, and altogether the gun has been pronounced a highly useful weapon for a ship's use, and in the days of hand-to-hand combats would have been invaluable in repelling boarders.

ON THE RIVIERA

1. "A Distant View of Nice, taken from the Hill of Cimies." The range of the Estrelles, with the Lighthouse of Antibes, appears in the distance.
2. "Roccambruna." A sketch taken from the gardens of the celebrated gaming establishment at Monte Carlo, Monaco. There is a legend that this village was once at the summit of the hill on which it stands, but glided bodily to its present position during a landslide.
3. "Christmas on the Riviera." A representation of the Nativity made by the monks of Cimies in a corner of their church on Christmas Day. The cave which contains the Holy Family is formed of brown paper, painted so as to resemble rock. Natural ivy is trained over it, and grasses and other plants are placed in the foreground and around. The figures are made of wax, lighted by tapers which are concealed behind them. The Shepherds are supposed to be entering the cave, and the village of Bethlehem appears in the distance. The scene remains in the church until the Festival of the Epiphany, when the Shepherds disappear and their place is taken by the Three Kings of the East, with a long train of attendants, horses, and camels.
4. "One of the Natives." This is a sketch of one of the few remaining monks still to be found on the Riviera.

THE REBELLION IN THE TRANSVAAL—HEIDELBERG

HEIDELBERG, where the rebel Boers of the Transvaal on Dec. 16 renounced their allegiance to British authority and proclaimed a Republic, is the chief town of the Heidelberg district, which occupies a middle position amongst the five southern districts of the territory. It is situated about fifty-four miles from the Transvaal capital Pretoria, the road to which passes through a gorge between the hills at the back of the village. Our sketch shows a view of the town from the mill dam, looking north towards Pretoria, and on the right may be seen two mounted Boers crossing the river at the ford. They are carrying Westley Richards Rifles, and wear ammunition belts over their shoulders. On the left are two Caffres cooking their mealie bread, and an ox waggon coming into the village. Such are the ordinary features of the town, where, in peaceful times, a thriving trade is carried on in wool, butter, and hides, as the surrounding country, being rich in grass land, is good for both pastoral and agricultural farming, large quantities of grain being also produced. Details of the mode in which the Boers declared the Republic are wanting, but the whole proceeding appears to have passed off peaceably and without any disturbance. Messrs. Kruger and Pretorius were proclaimed President and Vice-President, Joubert Commander-in-Chief, a lengthy proclamation was issued in the name of the new Government and Volksraad, and a letter was addressed to the British Commander, Colonel Lanyon, expressing their respect for the Queen and the British flag, and their desire to avoid war. They asserted, however, their determination to declare their independence, and requested Colonel Lanyon to hand over the reins of Government without any resistance. To this Colonel Lanyon characteristically replied by a proclamation, offering pardon to all those who immediately withdrew from the rebel camp.

"THE CHAPLAIN OF THE FLEET"

A NEW STORY by Messrs. Besant and Rice, illustrated by Mr. Charles Green, is continued on page 9.

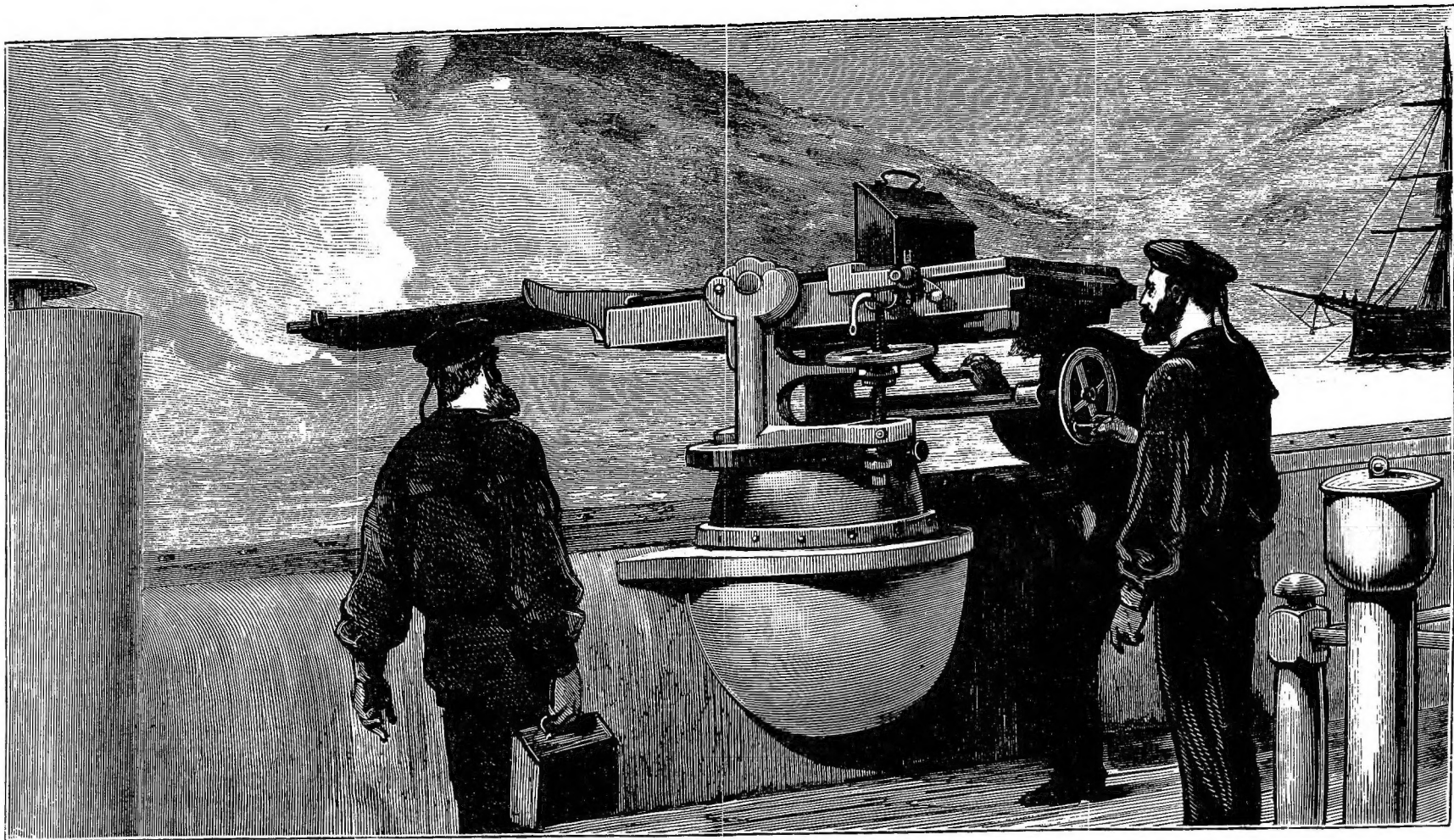
AN ALARM OF FIRE AT SEA—LOWERING THE LIFE-BOATS

DURING all journeys by sea, one of the most terrible calamities to be avoided, and to be prepared for, is that of fire.

On all well-conducted ships the greatest vigilance is exercised in avoiding and being in readiness for this emergency. The crews are continually drilled at the pumps, running the fire hose, and manning the life-boats, which are at the beginning of the journey provisioned with tinned edibles, and from time to time supplied with fresh water. On board the good ship *Zealandia*, mail steamer, from which this sketch is taken, the men go through this exercise at least once a week, and the alarm bell is sounded at any moment during the day or night, somewhat to the discomfort of the passengers, though greatly to their relief when they discover what pains are taken for their safety, and find how promptly the men and officers answer to the dreaded signal.

HOW A MAN-O-WAR'S CREW SPENT NEW YEAR'S DAY

"THE *Condor*, commanded by Commander Edward F. Day, was at the beginning of 1880 Senior Naval Officers' Ship on the coast of Syria. On January 1 she was at Ayas Bay in the Gulf of Scanderoon, having gone there on account of the snug anchorage, as most of the ports on the coast of Syria are open roadsides, and the weather during the winter months is too boisterous for ships to remain long at any of them. Ayas Bay is out of the civilised world, inasmuch as there is no house of any sort there. The country, however, is full of game, and during our stay the officers had very good shooting. The British Tar, however, not being as a rule supplied with a shot gun, has no great liking for the place. On New Year's Day we determined to give our men a treat by having an athletic meeting on shore. Every officer, from the captain downwards, subscribed a day's pay for the prizes. On the forenoon of the First a party landed to mark out the ground with flags, erect jumping poles, &c., under



OUR MEDITERRANEAN FLEET—PRACTICE WITH THE NORDENFELDT GUN ON BOARD H.M.S. "MONARCH"



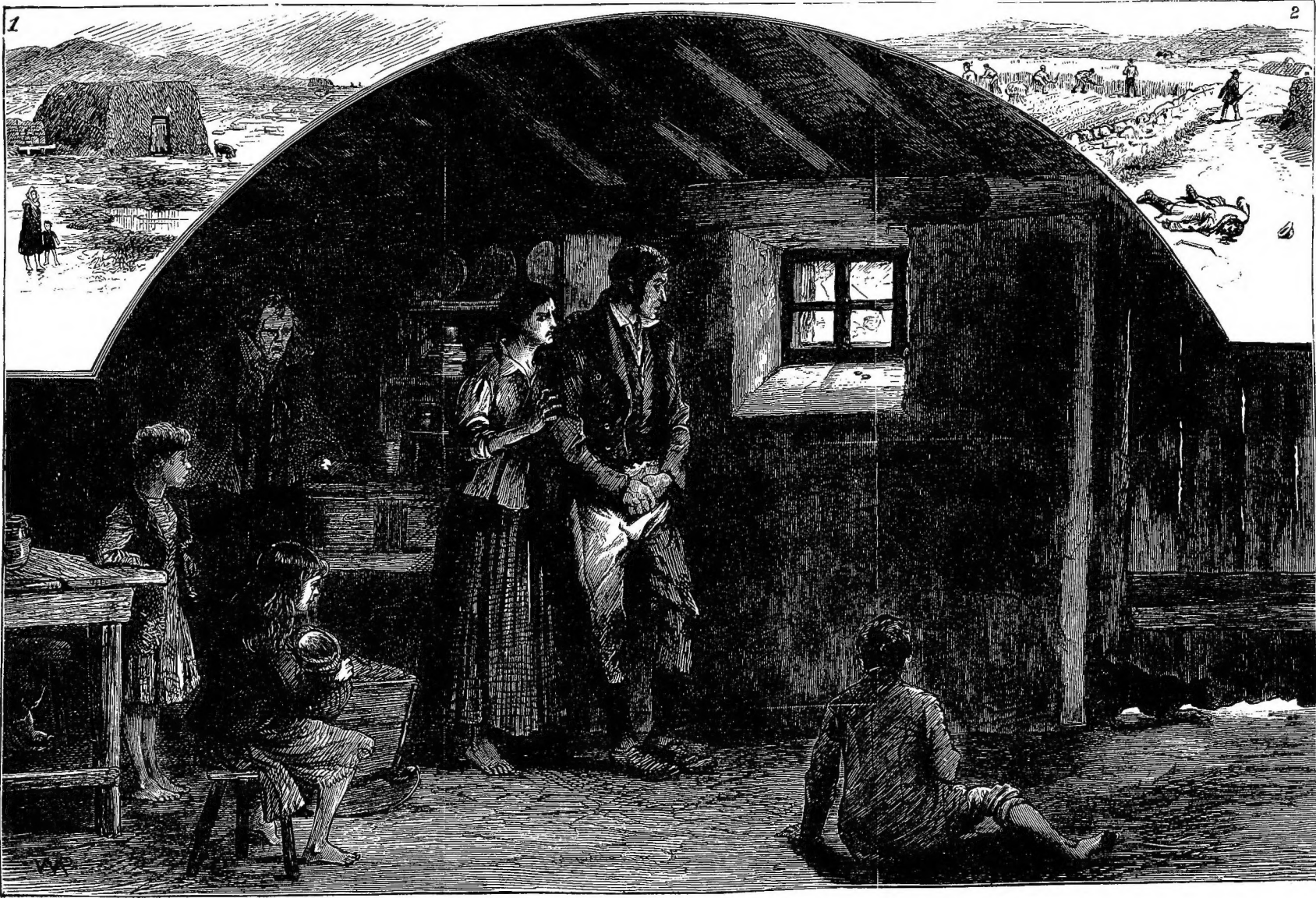
THE LAND AGITATION IN IRELAND—THE WIDOW AND THE ASSASSIN

"Tim, look at the poor Lady—"

"I . . . can't . . . Biddy."



1. View of Nice from the Montée de Cimiez.—2. Rocca-bruna, from the Gardens of Monte Carlo, Monaco.—3. A Christmas Scene in the Church at Cimiez.—4. One of the Natives.
SKETCHES FROM THE RIVIERA



1. A Bog-Cabin in Roscommon.—2. Her Majesty's Highway.—3. How Subscriptions are Collected.
THE LAND AGITATION IN IRELAND

REINFORCEMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.—The War Office and the Transport Department of the Admiralty are actively engaged in arranging for the despatch of troops to assist in the suppression of the Boer rebellion. Sir Hercules Robinson and staff, with a number

of other officers, were to start on Thursday from Southampton, and four steam transports have already been engaged and will sail as soon as they can be got ready, taking out the 6th Inniskillen Dragoons and a Battery of Artillery. H.M.S. *Tamar* left Gibraltar on Monday last with the 97th Regiment for Capetown, and the 15th Hussars (unmounted), with the 85th Regiment and two batteries of Artillery, will be sent direct from Bombay to Natal, starting on the 11th inst. in the *Euphrates*. On Wednesday Mr. Childers went to Osborne to have an audience of the Queen.

THE HOLIDAYS.—The weather on Boxing Day was not favourable for out-door recreations, frost, fog, and rain alternating during the day; but there was a considerable increase of traffic both to suburban and country stations on most of the railways. The Crystal Palace had 35,000 visitors, the Alexandra Palace 20,000, and the South Kensington Museum 21,000. The streets of the metropolis were noticeably quiet, and the charges at the Police Courts next day were little above the average in number, and mostly for trivial offences.

RECENT WEATHER in and around London has been generally mild, though on the whole damp and disagreeable, but Scotland has been visited by snowstorms of exceptional severity. Many of the railways in the North were completely blocked on Friday, and the efforts to clear the lines by means of steam snow-ploughs had only been partially successful up to Wednesday night, the falls having been renewed, and the strong wind having created drifts from seventeen to forty feet in depth in some places. On Tuesday the apparently lifeless body of a woman was found in the snow on a lonely moor near Inverary. When she recovered consciousness she stated that she had lost her way, and had been out three days and three nights. Her feet were so frost-bitten as to necessitate amputation.

THE CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF JERSEY is to be celebrated on the 6th inst. both in that island and in Guernsey. There will be a banquet at the Victoria College, for the civil and military authorities, a review and sham fight, and at night general illuminations.

THE LIVERPOOL CORPORATION have determined to light several of the main thoroughfares of that City with the electric light.

THE LOSS OF THE "ATALANTA."—The report of the Committee of Inquiry, just presented to the Admiralty, occupies nine quarto pages, and has an appendix of 83 pages. The Committee condemn the construction of ships of the *Atalanta* class as faulty, and unfit for use as training ships, but state that the vessel was sound, seaworthy, and stable when she left England upon her last cruise, and that her officers and crew were duly qualified.

RAILWAY FATALITIES.—On Monday night an extraordinary accident happened on the New Passage pier of the South Wales Union Railway at the mouth of the Severn, when two passengers, named Bates and Diamond, stepped out of a train which had stopped before reaching the platform, and were precipitated into the river bed beneath, a distance of some forty feet, it being low water. Diamond was killed instantly, and Bates had his arm and leg broken, besides suffering internal injuries.—On Christmas Day a lad in the employ of the Great Eastern Company fell from a moving train while trying to close a carriage door, and rolled into a pool of water, where he was drowned. At the inquest, a gentleman who had ridden in the same carriage made the astonishing statement that at the next station he had to leave the train twice to report the occurrence before any one would take any notice of him, and that some of his fellow-passengers urged him to say nothing lest they should be delayed on the journey.

COUNTERVAILING DUTIES.—On Tuesday Mr. Chamberlain, M.P., the President of the Board of Trade, received a deputation from the Birmingham Trades Council, which urged the Government to adopt countervailing duties to the bounties placed upon sugar by France and other countries. He replied that the Ministry believed such a course would lead the country straight back to Protection, and that, therefore, they could not countenance the proposal in any way whatever.

OBITUARY.—Mrs. Cross, the world-famous "George Eliot," died rather suddenly on Wednesday last week, after an illness of only three days, having caught cold on the previous Sunday. The funeral took place at Highgate Cemetery on Wednesday last, the service being conducted by a Unitarian Minister. Despite the continuous rain a large number of persons, including many ladies, assembled around the grave.—Mr. Mechi, whose illness and failure in business we alluded to last week, died on Sunday at Tiptree Hall. The fund which was started for his benefit will now be devoted to the purchase of an annuity for his widow.—Dr. R. Bullock Marsham, the venerable Warden of Merton College, Oxford, died on Monday in his 96th year.

"THE HAUNTED ARMOURY"

SOMETIMES we medizval ghosts, who erst were squires and knights,
Get leave from Spirit-land once more to join in earth's delights;
And no place suits us better 'twixt the hours of twelve and three,
(A.M., of course, you understand) than an ancient armoury.
Our ghostly steeds by ghostly grooms are there before us brought,
And many a joust and tournament thus merrily are fought.
But as we're now much thinner than when we were in life,
Our coats of mail don't fit us well, and so our mimic strife
Causes a deal of clash and clang, and this unwonted rout
Makes unbelieving mortals think there must be rats about.
But since we are chivalric sprites, and feel both love and pity
For womankind, especially if they are young and pretty;
With genuine knightly courtesy we vanish into air,
Or ever some fair lady sets her foot upon the stair.

ARTHUR LOCKER



THE TURF.—The "cross-country" work at Kempton Park and Enfield this week, though provided mainly for holiday makers, has been of a very fair character, many good animals putting in an appearance, and some very close racing being witnessed. At Kempton Austin Friar took the Sunbury Hurdle Race, and gave additional proof that he is a good animal at his new vocation. Miss Kate maintained the unexpectedly good form she showed on the last day at Sandown, winning her race over the hurdles, and Lottery, with 12 st. 7 lbs. on his back, and 10 to 1 against him in a field of four, took the Middlesex Steeple Chase. At Enfield Ignition showed herself a smarter animal than some thought she was by winning two steeplechases on the first day, and Quibble somewhat made up for past disappointments by securing the Southgate Steeplechase.

COURSING.—The weather in most districts has continued most favourable for this sport, and this week the Lichfield Meeting has been an excellent one. It received the strong patronage of the Marquis of Anglesey, a most zealous supporter of coursing, and

one of the new nominators for the Waterloo Cup. The market for this event does not show much activity, but Mr. Hinks' nomination was backed on Monday last in one bet at 20 to 1 to win 2,000l. Lord Haddington, however, is still first favourite, and very likely will remain so till the first brace of dogs are slipped for the Blue Ribbon of the leash on the 16th of February next.

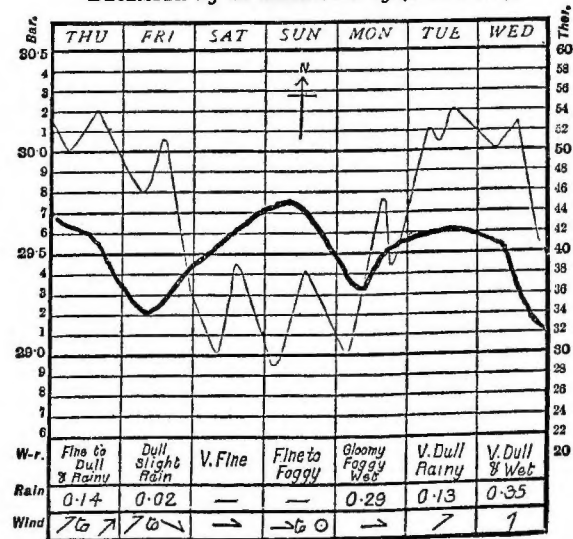
FOOTBALL.—Christmastide by no means implies a truce among footballists. At Norwich, on Tuesday last, under Association Rules, Suffolk got the better of Norfolk by two goals to one.—At Birmingham, in an Association game on Boxing Day, as many as 5,000 spectators witnessed the defeat of Lancashire by the home town, whose representatives scored no less than seven goals to two of their adversaries.—Another Association game was played on the same day at Nottingham between the Blackburn Rovers and Nottingham Forest, though snow to the depth of four to five inches covered the old Trent Bridge ground. The Nottingham men, though as usual a strong team, failed to score anything against their opponents' four goals.—At Blackburn the Sheffield Wednesday Club has beaten the Blackburn Olympic by four goals to one.

AQUATICS.—Reports from the river side all agree that both Hanlan and Laycock are progressing favourably for their match over the Thames Championship Course. It has been noticed by many critics that Laycock has shown great improvement in his work since he shortened his sculls inboard.—It is stated that Trickett, the ex-Champion of the World, is endeavouring to arrange a match with Hanlan, the champion, in this country, and that if he fails he will go to Canada and row him. Trickett attributes his easy defeat in November last to indisposition.

PEDESTRIANISM.—From a certain point of view, no advocate of true sport and legitimate athletic performances can be sorry to hear that the foolish, and as he might almost be called inhuman fellow, who undertook to walk, at Lillie Bridge, 2,500 miles in 1,000 hours, doing a mile and a quarter each half-hour, broke down in his task on Tuesday morning last. The instigators of the attempt are, however, as much to be blamed as he, and no one who paid gate-money to witness any part of this cruel and idiotic business can be deemed free from censure. It is a matter for regret, too, that the proprietors of the grounds should have allowed them to be used for such a performance.—Hardly less to be regretted and censured was a "Female Pedestrian Contest," provided for their visitors by the Alexandra Palace authorities on Boxing-day. The banqueting hall was the scene, and thirty miles the distance to be covered. It is some consolation to find that the three Amazonian competitors have "Madame" prefixed to their names, and that, therefore, it may be presumed they are not English women.—The arrangements for a six days' and nights' International Pedestrian Contest at New York may be said to be completed. It is promoted by the famous American pedestrian, O'Leary, and is on the go-as-you-like principle. It commences on the 24th of January.—Among amateurs a Thirty Miles' Walk was decided on Monday last at Stamford Bridge, under the auspices of the London Athletic Club. There was a very large field of competitors, and the Southampton representative, Mr. W. E. N. Coston, won by 300 yards from Mr. Squires, of the London Athletic Club, both of whom beat all previous records—the winner's time being 4h. 46m. 52s. No fewer than eighteen of the starters completed the distance within 5½ hours.

SWIMMING.—Christmas Day morning seems a strange fixture for a Swimming Handicap, but since 1864 this has been the date of the 100 yards' race instituted by the Serpentine Club. On Saturday last nine starters competed, and Mr. J. Delavanti, with 20 sec. start, came in first by a little more than two yards; Mr. Hudson, the Captain of the Dolphin Swimming Club, being second. Verily it may be said of the modern Anglo-Saxon athlete as it was of the model Roman youth—*sudavit et alsit*.

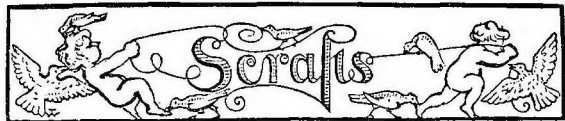
WEATHER CHART FOR THE WEEK DECEMBER 23 TO DECEMBER 25 (INCLUSIVE).



EXPLANATION.—The thick line shows the variations in the height of the Barometer during the past week ending Wednesday midnight. The fine line shows the shade temperature for the same interval, and gives the maximum and minimum readings for each day, with the (approximate) time at which they occurred. The information is furnished to us by the Meteorological Office.

REMARKS.—The unsettled rainy weather which prevailed at the commencement of this period was caused by the approach of some depressions towards our western coasts, and the winds were for the same reason south-westerly, and the barometer inclined downward. During Friday (24th inst.) these depressions passed across our northern coasts away over the North Sea, and the barometer therefore rose briskly in the rear, while the wind veered to the north-westward, temperature fell, and the weather became much finer. On Saturday (Christmas Day) the maximum temperature was only 39°, as against 51° on Friday (24th inst.) and 54° on Thursday (23rd inst.). During Sunday (25th inst.), however, a change in the weather set in, owing to the advance of some depressions towards our south-west coasts. The barometer fell somewhat decidedly, and the weather became foggy, while on Monday (27th inst.) these conditions changed to dull, gloomy, and rainy. Since then there has been very little change. The depressions which made their appearance on Sunday (26th inst.) have hung about in our neighbourhood, and the weather has been very dull and rainy, although mild. The winds are again south-westerly and temperature high for the time of year. The barometer was highest (29.74 inches) on Sunday (26th inst.); lowest (29.00 inches) on Wednesday (29th inst.); range, 0.74 inches. Temperature was highest (54°) on Thursday (23rd inst.) and Tuesday (28th inst.); lowest (29°) on Sunday (26th inst.); range, 25°. Rain fell on five days. Total amount, 0.93 inches. Greatest fall on any one day, 0.35 inches, on Wednesday (29th inst.).

LONDON MORTALITY continues to decrease, and during the week ending the 25th ult. 1,377 deaths were registered against 1,398 during the previous seven days, a decline of 21, being 495 below the average, and at the rate of 19.6 per 1,000. Small-pox is steadily increasing, and further rose to 33; 51 deaths were referred to measles, 64 to scarlet fever (an increase of 3), 12 to diphtheria (an increase of 3), 22 to whooping-cough (a decline of 7), 9 to different forms of fever, and 10 to diarrhoea (a decline of 6). There were 2,480 births registered, against 2,461 during the previous week, being 45 below the average. The mean temperature was 43.3 deg. and 2.2 deg. above the average.



GEORGE SAND'S CORRESPONDENCE is to be published in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, under the editorship of her son.

DR. SCHLIEMANN'S COLLECTION OF TROJAN ANTIQUITIES, which has been on exhibition at the South Kensington Museum for the last two years, will be removed after the Christmas holidays.

A REVOLUTION IN INDIGO CULTURE is threatened by a German discovery. Professor Bayer of Munich has turned out an artificial indigo by means of cinnamic acid in a nitro-bromic combination, which possesses all the properties of the commercial article derived from the Indian plant. A Mannheim manufactory produces the cinnamic acid from tar oil.

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY opened two Fine-Art Exhibitions last Sunday for the benefit of both East and West-Enders. In the former district there was a display of paintings at the Bishopsgate School Hall, fifty of which were lent from the South Kensington collection, and here 432 persons were admitted between 5 and 6 p.m., musical selections being also given on the organ. In the West the Hanover Gallery in New Bond Street was opened to the members of the Society, and was visited by 382 persons within the prescribed two hours.

THE INTRODUCTION OF PURE AIR INTO PUBLIC BUILDINGS will be one of the subjects brought before Parliament in the coming Session. Recent observations have shown that the air of London, at the height of the Victoria Tower or of the dome of St. Paul's, is free from the fog, smoke, and impurities of the lower level, owing to the moisture of the upper atmospheric strata. Accordingly a Bill proposes, by means of a small pipe and fan fixed to the highest part of our principal buildings, to bring down the pure air and force it into the edifice, displacing all impurities, while further, the buildings can be simultaneously warmed by passing the pure air through a heated chamber.

TWO RELICS OF THE FRANKLIN EXPEDITION have lately been landed on our shores. The remains of the unfortunate Lieutenant Irving, one of the explorers, which were lately discovered by Lieutenant Schwatka in his search expedition, have been brought to Scotland for burial in Edinburgh, his native city, while the other relic is an old anchor belonging to the *Terror*, lately found near the Nore lightship by some fishermen, and which is supposed to have been lost by the *Terror* when starting on her last journey with the *Erebus*. Much of the anchor is eaten away by rust, but the weight and the name of the ship are still visible, and it is intended to place the relic in one of the National Museums. Talking of Arctic matters, the Dutch are going to send out next year a fresh expedition in the *Willem Barents*, which has already done good service on the Nova Zembla coast.

SCIENTIFIC PURSUITS have little attraction for the masses in France in comparison with the interest felt in science in English-speaking countries, yet a step well worth imitating has been taken in Paris with a view to popularising scientific knowledge. A Popular Observatory has been founded at the Trocadéro by M. Léon Jaubert, to which admission is obtained free by tickets giving access between 1 to 4 p.m. and 8.30 to 11 p.m. The holder can thus attend the practical school on astronomy, the demonstrations, the library, the scientific conferences, and the laboratories. Some fine equatorial instruments and telescopes are already in place, *Engineering* tells us, and amongst forthcoming additions will be a large celestial projector to throw a ten-foot image of the sun on a glass screen, so that several observers can examine it simultaneously, and a projector to throw the image of planets, nebulae, and stars.

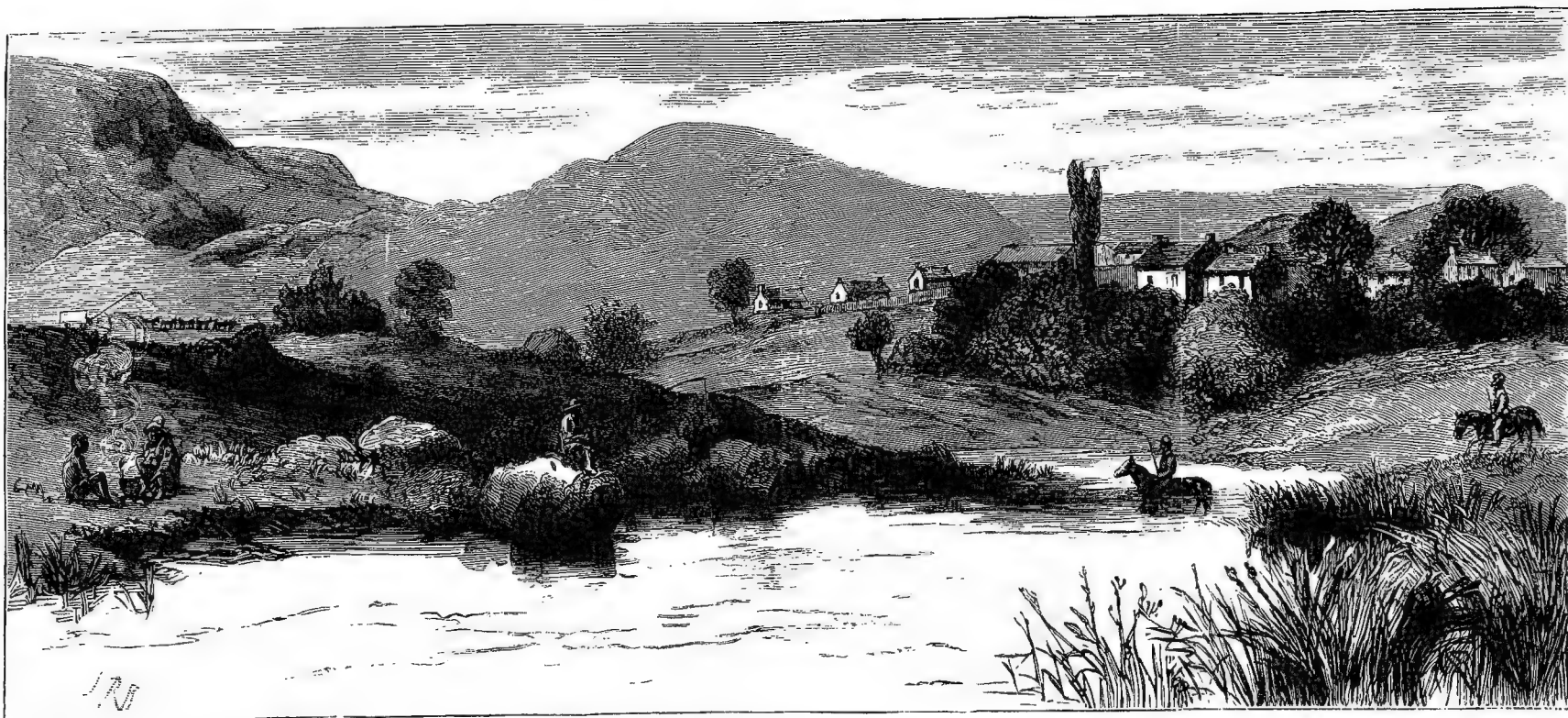
MIDLE SARAH BERNHARDT'S powers as a painter and sculptor are not very highly appreciated in the United States, as "cute Americans refuse to pay long prices for her pictures, while Mr. Longfellow has changed his mind about sitting to her for his bust. The fair Sarah intended to do much execution with her chisel during her voyage out, and took in her cabin an unfinished bust of M. Coquelin. On the second day out, according to the *San Francisco News Letter*, she went to work, when a lurch of the vessel caused the chisel to slip, and away went a portion of M. Coquelin's nose. Soon afterwards one of his ears was amputated; and then, as Sarah began to grow unsteady on her feet, the chisel ploughed a furrow across his face, from the lobe of the left ear to the right eyebrow; and a few more slips made M. Coquelin look as if he had been in a torchlight political riot. The bust was not completed on the voyage.

AMERICAN AND BRITISH ART.—It is riling to a Britisher to see how exquisitely Mr. Tennyson's "Dream of Fair Women" (James R. Osgood and Co., Boston, U.S.) is illustrated by American artists. The engravings on wood and the printing are even better than the designs, and far surpass in finish any book that we have yet seen issued by our own publishers. It looks as if America would soon supply us with fine art as well as with wheat and bacon. Have none of our publishers the pluck to spend the necessary money to get a book thoroughly well illustrated? How long will they continue to issue books with pictures which have already been seen before, in some cases five or six times, in different forms? There are more good artists and engravers here than across the Atlantic; but where the English publisher pays ten pounds the American finds it worth while to pay thirty. There has been much said lately (and deservedly) of the enterprise of the Messrs. Scribner; but, if we mistake not, the pioneers in publishing these beautifully illustrated works were Messrs. Fields and Osgood, of Boston, who had secured as engraver the services of Mr. A. V. Anthony.

NEW YEAR'S GIFTS IN PARIS THIS YEAR nearly all belong to three styles—Indian, Japanese, or the Louis XV. period. Plush, as in England, is the rage, muffs, sachets, fans, bonbon-cases, purses, &c., all being of the one material in different hues. One of the most expensive gifts are a bonbonnière, *Sac douairière*, made like an old reticule in Louis XV. brocade, smothered in real lace and flowers, in which perches a diamond cockchafer; a Louis XIII. box for sweets, in green plush, embroidered with real pearls, and a Pompadour scent box—a golden ball either richly chased or encrusted with diamonds, pearls, and turquoises, and opening into six parts, each withholding a different perfume. A beautifully-painted china cornucopia is another favourite bonbonnière, as it serves afterwards for a vase, and also a huge blue satin bonnet, which, when empty, can be worn at the theatre. Fans are plentiful, the prettiest being the *Dubarry*, made of plush or satin, with different lined roses at the edge of each leaf, and the *Korrigane*, also in plush, embroidered with scenes from the Breton ballet of the same name, lately produced at the Opera. The traditional wooden *sabot* is not forgotten, and dolls, laces, and jewels are hidden away in its toe, while the more expensive the hidden treasure the coarser is the *sabot*, for the sake of contrast. Nor has the pig completely gone out of fashion, as in many shop windows may be seen dainty little porkers in pink and blue satin, dully stuffed with chocolate or *marrons glacés*. There are no very novel toys on the Boulevards, the usual "Questions" appear on topics of the day, the more noticeable being the "Panama Question," the "Key to Paradise," and the "Sacré-Cœur Question." The fancy for military toys has much developed of late, and the annual sale of miniature guns, swords, and revolvers, brings in some 60,000l. Dolls and their furniture produce a yearly revenue of between 80,000l. and 100,000l.



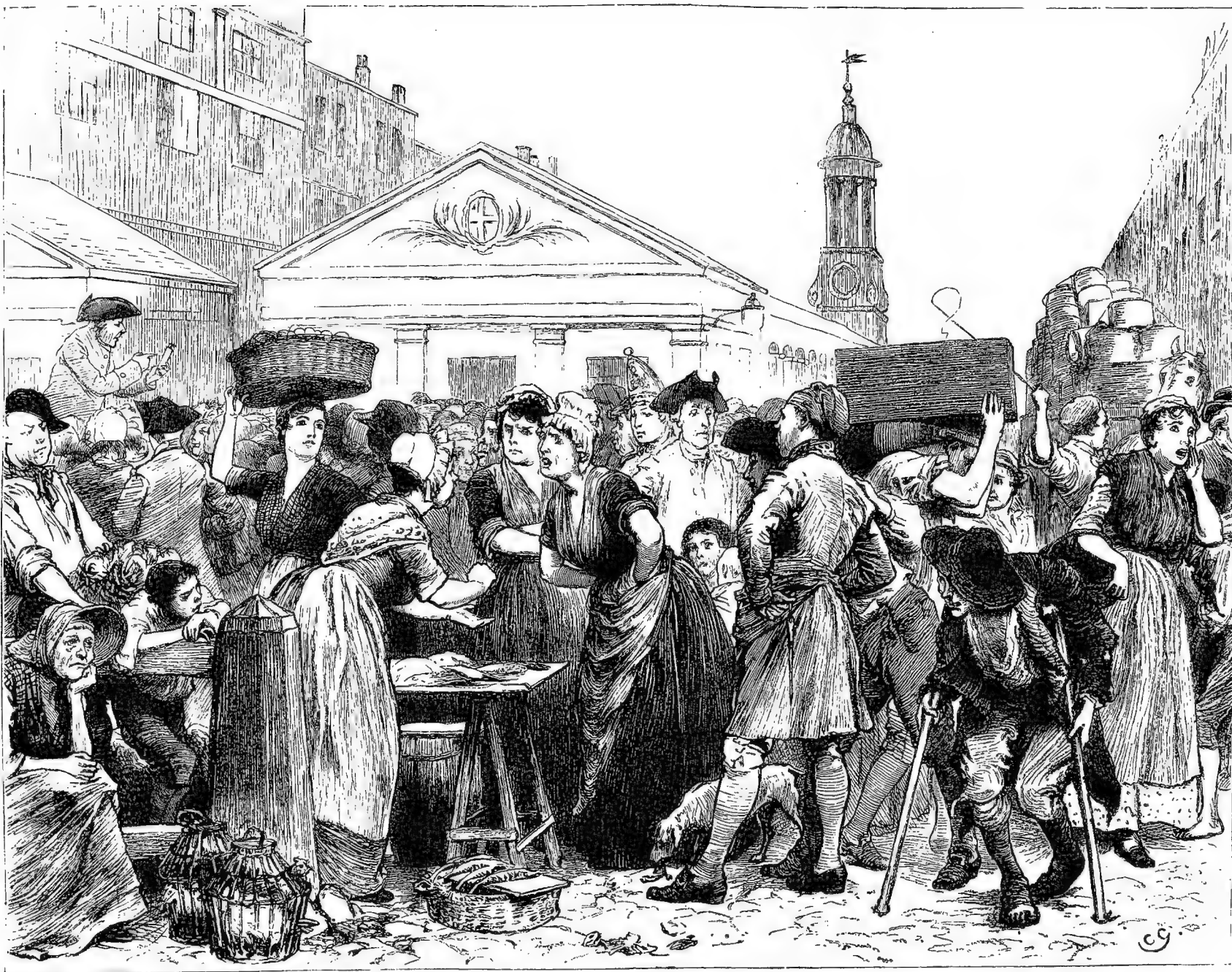
THE LAND AGITATION IN IRELAND — RESIDENCE OF MR. BENICE JONES AT LISSELANE, CLONAKILTY, COUNTY CORK



THE REVOLT IN THE TRANSVAAL — HEIDELBERG, HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE REBEL BOERS



THE LAND AGITATION IN IRELAND — ERECTING A POLICE HUT AT NEW PALLAS, LIMERICK



DRAWN BY CHARLES GREEN

All day long there was a continual crying of the butchers: "Buy, buy, ladies—buy! Rally up, ladies—rally up!"

THE CHAPLAIN OF THE FLEET

By WALTER BESANT AND JAMES RICE,

AUTHORS OF "READY-MONEY MORTIBOY," "BY CELIA'S ARBOUR," "THE MONKS OF THELEMA," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER VI.

HOW KITTY BEGAN TO ENJOY THE LIBERTIES OF THE FLEET

HER tears disconcerted me extremely. What did she cry for? But she presently recovered, and dried her eyes. Then she looked at me thoughtfully, and said:—

"Sister, I suppose this child has been accustomed to have a dinner every day?"

"Surely," replied Miss Deborah. "And to-day we shall all dine."

To-day we should all dine? Were there, then, days when we should all go hungry?

"You must know, my dear," Miss Esther explained in a soft, sad voice, "that we are very poor. We have, therefore, on many days in the week to go without meat. Otherwise we should have to do worse"—she looked round the room and shuddered—"we should have to give up the independence of our solitude. Hunger, my child, is not the worst thing to bear."

"A piece of roasting-beef, sister," said Mrs. Deborah, who had now assumed a hat and a cloak, "with a summer cabbage, and a pudding in the gravy."

"And I think, sister," said Mrs. Esther, her eyes lighting up eagerly, "that we might take our dinner—the child might like to take her dinner—at twelve to-day."

While Mrs. Deborah went into the market, I learned that the two sisters had taken no food except bread and water for a week, and that their whole stock now amounted to two shillings in money and part of a loaf. What a strange world was this of London, in which gentlewomen had their lodging in so foul a place and starved on bread and water!

"But," she repeated with a wan smile, "there are worse things than hunger. First, we must pay our rent. And here we are at least alone; here we may continue to remember our breeding."

Before Mistress Deborah returned, I also learned that they were chiefly dependent on a cousin for supplies of money, which were made to them grudgingly (and, indeed, he was not rich), and that the doctor had provided for my maintenance with the offer of so large a weekly sum that it promised to suffice for the wants of all.

"We are," said Mrs. Esther, "but small eaters; a little will suffice for us. But you, child, are young; eat without fear, eat your fill; the money is for you, and we shall grudge you nothing."

While the beef was roasting I noticed how their eyes from time to time, in spite of themselves, would be fixed upon the meat with a hungry and eager look. Nor had I any enjoyment of the meal till I had seen their pangs appeased. After the plenty of the Vicarage and the Hall, to think of bread and water, and not too much bread,

for days together! Yet, hungry as they were, they ate but little; it shamed me to go on eating, being always a girl of a vigorous appetite and hard set about the hour of noon; it shamed me at first, also, to observe their ways of thrift, so that not the least crumb should be wasted. Mrs. Deborah read my thoughts.

"In this place," she said, "we learn to value what it takes money to procure. Yet there are some here poorer than ourselves. Eat, child, eat. For us this has been, indeed, a feast of Belteshazzar."

Dinner over, we unpacked my box, and they asked me questions. I found that they were proud of their birth and breeding; the portrait over the fire was, they told me, that of their father, once Lord Mayor of London, and they congratulated me upon being myself a Pleydell, which, they said, was a name very well known in the country, although many great City families might be ignorant of it.

"No gift, my dear," said Mrs. Esther, "is so precious as gentle blood. Everything else may be won, but birth never."

All day long there went on the same dreadful noise of shouting, crying, calling, bawling, rolling of carts, cracking of whips, and trampling of horses' feet. In the evening I asked, when the sun went down, but the noise decreased not, if it was always thus.

"Always," they replied. "There is no cessation day or night. It is part," said Mrs. Deborah, "of our punishment. 'We are condemned, child; for the sin of having a negligent trustee, we go in captivity, shame, and degradation all our lives.'"

"Nay," said her sister, "not degradation, sister. No one but herself can degrade a gentlewoman."

Truly, the noise was terrible. When I read in the "Paradise Lost" of fallen angels in their dark abode, I think of Fleet Market and the Fleet Rules. It began in the early morning with the rolling of the carts; all day long in the market there was a continual crying of the butchers: "Buy, buy, ladies—buy! Rally up, ladies—rally up!" There were quarrels unceasing and ever beginning, with fights, shouting and cursing: the fish-women quarrelled at their stalls; the poultry-wives quarrelled over their baskets; the porters quarrelled over their burdens; the carters over the right of way; the ragamuffin boys over stolen fruit. There was nothing pleasant, nothing quiet, nothing to refresh; nothing but noise, bawling, and contention. And if any signs of joy, these only drunken laughter from open tavern-doors.

Thus I began to live, being then a maid of sixteen years and seven months, in the Rules and Liberties of the Fleet Prison; surely as bad a place, outside Newgate Prison, as could be found for a girl brought up in innocence and virtue. For, let one consider the situation of the Rules. They include all those houses which lie between the ditch, or rather the market, on the west, and the Old Bailey on the east—fit boundaries for such a place, the filthy turbid

ditch and the criminal's gaol—and Fleet Lane on the north to Ludgate Hill on the south. These streets are beyond and between the abodes of respectability and industry. On the east was the great and wealthy City with the merchants' houses; on the west the streets and squares where the families of the country had their town residence; on the south, the river; on the north, the dark and gloomy streets of Clerkenwell, where thieves lay in hiding and the robbers of the road had their customary quarters. Why, Jonathan Wild himself, the greatest of villains, lived hard by in Ship Court. Is there, anywhere, in any town, an acre more thickly covered with infamy, misery, starvation, and wretchedness?

If we walked abroad, we could not go north because of Clerkenwell, where no honest woman may trust herself; if we went south we had to walk the whole length of the market, past the marrying taverns, so that shame fell upon my heart to think how my uncle was one of those who thus disgraced his cloth: when we got to the end, we might walk over the Fleet Bridge, among the noisy sellers of quack medicines, pills, powders, hot fumes, pies, flounders, mackerel, and oysters; or on Ludgate Hill, where the touts of the Fleet parsons ran up and down inviting couples to be married, and the Morocco men went about, book in hand, to sell their lottery shares. The most quiet way when we took the air was to cross Holborn Bridge, and so up the hill past St. Andrew's Church, where, if the weather were fine, we might go as far as the gardens of Gray's Inn, and there sit down among the trees and feel for a little the joy of silence.

Said Mrs. Deborah, one day, when we two had sat there, under the trees, for half an hour, listening to the cawing of the rooks:

"Child, the place"—meaning the Rules—"is the City of Destruction after Christian and Christiana, and the boys, and Mercy were all gone away."

We lived in one room, which was both kitchen and parlour. We had no servant; the doctor's provision kept us in simple plenty; we cleaned and dusted the place for ourselves; we cooked our dinners, and washed our dishes; we made our dresses; we did for ourselves all those things which are generally done by a servant. Mrs. Esther said that there was no shame in doing things which, if left undone, would cause a gentlewoman to lose her self-respect. 'Twas all, except the portrait of her father, that she had left of her former life, and to this she would cling as something dearer than life.

There were other lodgers in the house. All who lodged there were, of course, prisoners "enjoying" the Rules—who else would live in the place? On the ground-floor was Sir Miles Lackington, Baronet. He was not yet thirty, yet he had already got rid of a great and noble estate by means of gambling, and now was compelled to hide his head in this refuge, and to live upon an allowance

THE GRAPHIC

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of two guineas made weekly to him by a cousin. This, one would have thought, was a disgrace enough to overwhelm a gentleman of his rank and age with shame. But it touched him not, for he was ever gay, cheerful, and ready to laugh. He was kind to my ladies and to me; his manners, when he was sober, were gentle; though his face was always flushed and cheeks swollen by reason of his midnight potations, he was still a handsome fellow; he was careless of his appearance as of his fortune; he would go with waistcoat unbuttoned, wig awry, neck-cloth loose, ruffles limp; but however he went it was with a laugh. When he received his two guineas he generally gave away the half among his friends. In the evening they used to carry him home to his room on the ground-floor, too drunk to stand.

I soon got to know him, and we had frequent talks. He seemed to be ever meeting me on the stairs when I went a-marketing; he called upon us often, and would sit with me during the warm summer afternoons, when the sisters dropped off to sleep. I grew to like him, and he encouraged me to say freely what I thought, even to the extent of rating him for his profligate practices.

"Why," he would say, laughing, "I am at the lowest—I can go no lower; yet I have my two guineas a week. I have enough to eat, I drink freely; what more can I want?"

I told him what his life seemed to me.

He laughed again at this, but perhaps uneasily.

"Does it seem so terrible a thing," he said, leaning against the window with his hands in his pockets, "to have no cares? Believe me, Kitty, Fortune has brought me into a harbour where winds and tempests never blow. While I had my estate, my conscience plagued me night and morning. And yet I knew that all must fly. Hazard doth always serve her children so, and leaves them naked. Well—it is gone. So can I play no more. But he who plays should keep sober if he would win. Now that I cannot play, I may drink. And again, when, formerly I was rich and a prodigal, friend and enemy came to me with advice. I believe they thought the Book of Proverbs had been written specially to meet my case, so much did they quote the words of Solomon, Agar, and Lemuel. But, no doubt, there have been fools before, and truly it helpeth a fool no whit to show him his folly. 'As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.' I remember that proverb. Now that Hazard hath taken all, there is no longer occasion for advice. Child, you look upon one who hath thrown away his life, and yet is happier in his fall and repents not. For I make no doubt but that, had I my fortune back, 'twould fly away again in the same fashion."

He concluded with an allusion to the Enemy of Mankind, for which I rebuked him, and he laughed, saying:—

"Pretty Puritan, I will offend no more."

Had I been older and more experienced, I should have known or suspected why he came so often and met me daily. Kitty had found favour in the sight of this dethroned king. He loved the maid: her freshness, her rosy cheeks, her youth, her innocence pleased him, I suppose. We know not, we women, for what qualities there are in us that we are loved by men, so that they will commit so many follies for our sake.

"Thou art such a girl, sweet Kitty," he said to me, one day, "so pretty and so good, as would tempt a man wallowing contentedly in the pigsties of the world, to get up, wash himself, and go cleanly, for thy sake. Yet what a miserable wretch should I be did I thus learn to feel my own downfall!"

And again he told me once that he was too far gone to love me; and not far enough gone to do me an injury.

"Wherefore," he added, "I must worship at thy shrine in silent admiration."

It was kindly done of Sir Miles to spare an ignorant girl. For so ignorant was Kitty, and so brotherly did he seem, that had he asked her to become his wife, I think she would have consented. Oh, the fine state, to be my Lady Lackington, and to live in the Rules of the Fleet!

Another lodger in our house, a man whose face inspired me with horror, so full of selfish passion was it, was a Captain Dunquerque. With him were his wife and children. It was of the children, poor things, that our Esther spoke when she said there were some in the place poorer than themselves; for the wife and children starved, while the captain, their father, ate and drank his fill. A gloomy man, as well as selfish, who reviled the fate which he had brought upon himself. Yet for all his reviling, he spared himself nothing so that his children might have something. I am glad that this bad man has little to do with my history.

Another lodger, who had the garret at the top, was Solomon Stallabras, the poet.

It is very well known that the profession of letters, of all the trades, callings, and conditions of men, is the most precarious and the most miserable. I doubt, indeed, whether that ought to be called a profession which requires no training, no colleges or schools, no degree, and no diploma. Other professions are, in a way, independent: the barrister doth not court, though he may depend upon, the favour of attorneys; the rector of the parish doth not ask the farmers to support him, but takes the tithes to which he is entitled; the poor author, however, is obliged to receive of his publisher whatever is offered, nor is there any corporate body or guild of authors by whom the situation of the poet may be considered and his condition improved. Alone among learned men, the author is doomed to perpetual dependence and poverty. Indeed, when one considers it, scarce anything else is to be expected, for, in becoming an author, a man is so vain as to expect that to him will be granted what has been given to no man except Shakespeare—a continual flow of strength, spirits, ingenuity, wit, and dexterity, so as to sustain, without diminution or relaxation, the rapid production of works for the delight of the world. I say rapid, because the books are bought by publishers at a low rate, though they are sold to the public at large sums. And, if we think of it, scarce any author produces more than one or two books which please the world. Therefore, when the fountain runs dry, whither is that poor author to turn? The public will have none of him; there remains, it is true, one hope, and that unworthy, to get subscriptions for a volume which he will never produce, because he will have eaten up beforehand the money paid for it before it is written.

The Fleet Prison and its Rules have always been a favourite resort and refuge for poets and men of letters. Robert Lloyd died there, but long after I went away; Richard Savage died there; Churchill was married in the place, and would have died there, had he not anticipated his certain fate by dying early; Samuel Boyce died there; Sir Richard Baker died there; William Oldys, who died, to be sure, outside the Rules, yet drank every night within them; lastly, within a stone's throw of the Rules, though he was never a prisoner, died the great John Bunyan himself.

I heard my ladies, from time to time, talk of a certain Mr. Stallabras. They wondered why he did not call as usual, and laid the blame upon me; little madam had made him shy. One day, however, Mrs. Esther being called out by one of Captain Dunquerque's children, came back presently, saying that Mr. Stallabras was starving to death in his room.

Mrs. Deborah made no reply, but instantly hurried to the cupboard, when she took down the cold beef which was to be our dinner, and cut off three or four goodly slices; these she laid on a plate, with bread and salt, and put the whole upon a napkin; and then she disappeared swiftly.

"The poor young man! the dear young man!" cried Mrs. Esther, wringing her hands. "What can we do? My dear, the sweetest and most mellifluous of poets! The pride and glory of his age! It is he who wrote 'Hours of the Night,' the 'Pleasures of

Solitude,' the 'Loves of Amoret and Amoretta,' and other delightful verses; yet they let him languish in the Fleet! What are our countrymen thinking of? Would it not be better to rescue (while still living) so ingenious and charming a writer from his poverty, than to give him (as they must), after his death, a grave in Westminster Abbey?"

I asked her if we should read together these delightful poems. "We have no copy," she said. "Mr. Stallabras, who is all sensibility, insists, from time to time, upon our having copies, so that we may read them aloud to him. Yet his necessities are such that he is fain to take them away again and sell them. As for his manners, my dear, they are very fine, being such as to confer distinction upon the Rules. He has not the easy bearing of Sir Miles Lackington, of course, which one would not expect save in a man born to good breeding; but he possesses in full measure the courtesy which comes from study and self-dignity. Yet he is but a hosier's son."

Mrs. Deborah here returned, bearing an empty plate.

She had trouble at first, she said, to persuade him to eat. His prejudices as a gentleman and a scholar were offended by the absence of horse-radish; but, as he had eaten nothing for two days, he was induced to waive this scruple, and presently made a hearty meal. She had also persuaded him to come downstairs in the evening, and take a dish of tea.

Thanks to the doctor's liberality in the matter of my weekly board, tea was now a luxury in which we could sometimes indulge. Nothing gave Mrs. Esther more gratification than the return, after long deprivation, to that polite beverage.

At about five o'clock the poet made his appearance. He was short of stature, with a turned-up nose, and was dressed in a drab-coloured coat, with a bag wig, and shoes with steel buckles. Everything that he wore had once been fine, but their splendour was faded now; his linen was in rags, his shoes in holes; but he carried himself with pride. His dignity did not depend upon his purse; he bore his head high, because he thought of his fame. It inflicted no wound to his pride to remember that he had been that day on the eve of starvation, and was still without a farthing.

"Miss Kitty," he said, bowing very low, "you see before you one who, though a favourite of the Muses, is no favourite of Fortune:—

'Gainst hostile fate his heart is calm the while,
Though Fortune frown, the tuneful sisters smile.

Poetry, ladies, brings with it the truest consolation."

"And religion," said Mrs. Esther.

"There lives not—be sure—the wretch," cried the poet, "who would dissociate religion and the Muse."

This was very grand, and pleased us all. We had our dish of tea, with bread and butter. I went on cutting it for the poet till the loaf was quite gone.

During the evening he gave utterance to many noble sentiments—so noble, indeed, that they seemed to me taken out of books. And before he went away he laid down his views as to the profession of letters, of which I have already spoken, perhaps, too severely.

"It is the mission of the poet and author," he said, "to delight, and to improve while delighting. The man of science may instruct; the poet embodies the knowledge, and dresses it up in a captivating way to attract the people; the divine teaches the dogmas of the Church; the poet conveys, in more pleasing form, the lessons and instructions of religion: the philosopher and moralist lay down the laws of our being; the author, by tropes and figures, by fiction, by poetry, shows the proper conduct of life, and teaches how the way of virtue leads to happiness. Is not this a noble and elevating career? Does not a man do well who says to himself, 'This shall be my life; this my lot?'"

He paused, and we murmured assent to his enthusiasm.

"It is true," he went on, "that the ungrateful world thinks little of its best friends; that it allows me—me, Solomon Stallabras, to languish in the Rules of the Fleet. Even that, however, has its consolation; because, ladies, it has brought me the honour and happiness of your friendship."

He rose, saluted us all three in turn, and sat down again.

"Art," he went on, "so inspires a man with great thoughts, that it makes more than a gentleman—it makes a nobleman—of him. Who, I would ask, when he reads the sorrows of Clarissa, thinks of the trade—the mere mechanical trade—in which the author's money was earned? I cannot but believe that the time will come when the Court itself, unfriendly as it now is to men of letters, will confer titles and place upon that poor poet whose very name cannot now reach the walls of the palace."

My ladies' good fortune (I mean in receiving the weekly stipend for my maintenance) was thus shared by the starving poet, whom they no longer saw, helpless to relieve him, suffering the privations of hunger. Often have I observed one or other of the sisters willingly go without her dinner, pleading a headache, in order that her portion might be reserved for Mr. Stallabras.

"For sensibility," said Mrs. Esther, "is like walking up a hill: it promotes appetite."

"So does youth," said Mrs. Deborah, more practical. "Mr. Stallabras is still a young man, Kitty; though you think thirty old."

That he was a very great poet we all agreed, and the more so when, after a lucky letter, he secured a subscriber or two for his next volume, and was able to present us once more with a book of his own poetry. I do not know whether he more enjoyed hearing me read them aloud (for then he bowed, spread his hands, and inclined his head this way and that, in appreciation of the melody and delicacy of the sentiments), or whether he preferred to read them himself; for then he could stop when he pleased, with, "This idea, ladies, was conceived while wandering amid the fields near Bagnigge Wells;" "This came to me while watching the gay throng in the Mall;" "This, I confess, was an inspiration caught in church."

"Kitty should enter these confessions in a book," said Mrs. Esther. "Surely they will become valuable in the day—far distant, I trust—when your life has to be written, Mr. Stallabras."

"Oh, madam!" He bowed again, and lifted his hands in deprecation. But he was pleased. "Perhaps," he said, "meaner bards have found a place in the Abbey, and a volume dedicated to their lives. If Miss Kitty will condescend thus to preserve recollections of me, I shall be greatly flattered."

I did keep a book, and entered in it all that dropped from his lips about himself, his opinions, his maxims, his thoughts, and so forth. He gradually got possessed of the idea that I would myself some day write his life, and he began insensibly to direct his conversation mainly to me.

Sometimes he met me in the market, or on the stairs, when he would tell me more.

"I always knew," he said, "from the very first, that I was born to greatness. It was in me as a child, when, like Pope, I lisped in numbers. My station, originally, was not lofty, Miss Kitty." He spoke as if he had risen to a dazzling height. "I was but the son of a hosier, born in Fetter Lane, and taught at the school, or academy, kept by one Jacob Crooks, who was handier with the rod than with the Gradus ad Parnassum. But I read and taught myself; became at first the hack of Mr. Dodsley, and gradually rose to eminence."

He had, indeed, risen; he was the occupant of a garret; his fame lay in his own imagination; and he had not a guinea in the world.

"Miss Kitty," he said, one day, "there is only one thing that disqualifies you from being my biographer."

I asked him what that was.

"You are not, as you should be, my wife. If virtue and beauty fitted you for the station of a poet's wife, the thing were easy. Alas, child! the poet is poor, and his mistress would be poorer. Nevertheless, believe that the means, and not the will, are wanting to make thee my Laura, my Stella, and me thy Petrarch, or thy Sidney."

It was not till later that I understood how this starveling poet, as well as the broken baronet, had both expressed their desire as to certain, they were content to shut their eyes to it, and to think of the thing as one of the faults which women, in contempt and pity, ascribe to the nature of man. I cannot, being now of ripe years, believe that Heaven hath created in man a special aptitude for debauchery, sin, and profligacy, while women have been designed for the illustration of virtues which are the opposite to them. So that, when I hear it said that it is the way of men, I am apt to think that way sinful.

CHAPTER VII.

HOW KITTY LEARNED TO KNOW THE DOCTOR

THOSE evenings of riot from which Sir Miles was so often carried home speechless, were spent in no other place than that very room where I had seen the marriage of the sailors; and the president of the rabble rout was no other than the doctor himself.

I learned this of Sir Miles. If my ladies knew it, of which I am not certain, they were content to shut their eyes to it, and to think of the thing as one of the faults which women, in contempt and pity, ascribe to the nature of man. I cannot, being now of ripe years, believe that Heaven hath created in man a special aptitude for debauchery, sin, and profligacy, while women have been designed for the illustration of virtues which are the opposite to them. So that, when I hear it said that it is the way of men, I am apt to think that way sinful.

It was Sir Miles himself who told me of it one morning. I found him leaning against the doorpost with a tankard of ale in his hand.

"Fie, Sir Miles!" I said. "Is it not shameful for a gentleman to be carried home at night, like a pig?"

"It is," he replied. "Kitty, the morning is the time for repentance. I repent until I have cleared my brain with this draught of cool October."

"It is as if a man should drag a napkin in the mud of the Fleet Ditch to clean it," I said.

He drank off his tankard, and said he felt better.

"Pretty Miss Kitty," he said, "it is a fine morning; shall we abroad? Will you trust yourself with me to view the shops in Cheapside or the beaux in the Mall? I am at thy service, though, for a Norfolk baronet, my ruffles are of the shabbiest."

I told him that I would ask Mistress Esther for permission. He said he wanted first a second pint, as the evening had been long and the drink abundant, after which his brain would be clear and his hand steady.

I told him it was a shame that a gentleman of his rank should mate with men whose proper place was among the thieves of Turnmill Street, or the porters of Chick Lane, and that I would not walk with a man whose brain required a quart of strong ale in the morning to clear it.

"As for my companions," he said, taking the second pint which the boy brought him and turning it about in his hands, "we have very good company in the Liberties—quite as good as your friend Christian, in that story you love so much, might have had in Vanity Fair, had he been a lad of mettle and a toper. There are gentlemen of good family, like myself; poets like Solomon Stallabras; merchants, half-pay captains and broke lieutenants; clerks, tradesmen, lawyers, parsons, farmers, men of all degrees. It is like the outside world, except that here all are equal who can pay their shot. Why, with the doctor at the head of the table, and a bowl of punch just begun, hang me if I know any place where a man may feel more comfortable or drink more at his ease."

"The doctor?" I asked. Now I had seen so little of my uncle that I had almost forgotten the marriage of the sailors, and was beginning again to think of him as the pious and serious minister who spoke of sacred things to my guardians. "The doctor?"

"Ay," Sir Miles drank off the whole of his second pint. "Who else?" His voice became suddenly thick, his eyes fixed, with a strange light in them. "Who else but the doctor? Why, what would the Rules be without the doctor? He is our prince, our bishop, our chaplain—what you will—the right reverend his most gracious majesty the King of the Rules." Sir Miles waved his hand dramatically. "He keeps us sweet; he polishes our wits; but for him we should be swallowing wine; he brings strangers and visitors to enliven us; drinks with us, sings with us, makes wit for us from the treasures of his learning; condescends to call us his friends; pays our shot for us; lends us money; gives food to the starving, and drink—yes, drink, by gad! to the thirsty, and clothes to the naked. Ah, poor girl! you can never see the doctor in his glory, with all his admirers round him, and every man a glass of punch in his hand and a clean tobacco-pipe in his mouth! The doctor? he is our boast; a most complete and perfect doctor; the pride of Cambridge; the crown and sum of all doctors in divinity!"

He had forgotten, I suppose, his invitation to take me for a walk, for he left me here, staggering off in the direction of the Hand and Pen, where, I doubt not, he spent the rest of his idle and wasted day.

It would have been useless and cruel to talk to my guardian about this discovery. It was another thing to be ashamed of. Sir Miles told me less than the truth. In fact the doctor's house was the nightly resort of all those residents in the Rules whom he would admit to his society. Hither, too, came, attracted by his reputation for eloquence, wit, and curious knowledge, gentlemen from the Temple, Lincoln's Inn, and other places, who were expected, as a contribution to the evening, to send for bowls of punch. But of this presently.

I saw my uncle seldom. He visited the sisters from time to time, and never failed to ask particularly after my progress in knowledge, and especially in the doctrines of the Church of England. On these occasions he generally left behind him, as a present, some maxim or precept tending to virtue, which we could repeat after his departure and turn over in our minds at leisure. Once he found me alone, Mrs. Deborah being indisposed and confined to her room, where her sister was nursing her. He took advantage of their absence to impress upon me the necessity of circumspection in my manner of life.

"Heaven knows, child," he said, "what thy future will be. Hither come none but profligates and spendthrifts. Yet what else can I do with thee? Where bestow thee?"

"Oh, sir!" I said, "let me not be taken from my dear ladies."

"Thou shalt not, child; at least for the present. But it is bad for thee to live here; it is bad for thee to have as an uncle one whose life is sadly inconsistent with his Christian profession, and who might despair, were it not for the example of Solomon (methinks from his history may be sucked consolation by all elderly and reverend sinners). Like him, what I lack in practice I partly make up with precept. He who, like me, is a Fleet parson, should be judged differently from his fellows; he is without the licence and therefore hath forfeited the paternal affection of his bishop; he is exposed to temptations which beset no other folk; among those who flock to him for marriage are some who would fain commute their fees for brandy and strong drinks, or even bilk the clergyman altogether—a sin which it is difficult to believe can be forgiven. Hence arise strifes and wraths, unseemly for one who wears a cassock. Hither come those who seek good fellowship, and think to find it in the Rules; Templars, young bloods, and wits. Hence arise drinking and brawling; and as one is outside the law, so to speak, so one is tempted to neglect the law. I say nothing of the

temptations of an empty purse. These I felt, with many prickings and instigations of the Evil One, while I was yet curate of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, before I escaped my creditors by coming here. Then I was poor, and found, as the Wise Man says, that "The poor is hated even of his own neighbour."

He went on, half preaching, half talking.

A man who sinned greatly, yet preached much; who daily fell, yet daily exhorted his neighbour to stand upright; who knew and loved, as one loves a thing impossible to attain, the life of virtue; who drank, laughed, and bawled songs of an evening with his boon companions; who married all comers, no questions asked, without scruple and without remorse, a priest whose life was a disgrace to his profession; who did kind and generous things, and paid that homage to Virtue which becomes one who knows her loveliness.

It pleased him to talk, but only with me, about himself. He was always excusing himself to me, ashamed of his life, yet boasting of it and glorying in it; conscious of his infamy, and yet proud of his success; always thinking by what plea he could justify himself, and maintain his self-respect.

"I am a man," he said, "who is the best of a bad profession. My work is inglorious, but I am glorious; my rivals, who would rob me of my very practice, do not hate me, but esteem and envy me. I have, yea, outside these Rules, friends who love me still; some of them pity me, and some would see me (which is impossible) restored to the fold and bosom of the Church; some who drink with me, talk with me, borrow of me, walk with me, smoke with me, and are honoured by my friendship. There is no man living who would wish me harm. Surely, I am one of those who do good to themselves, whom, therefore, their fellow-men respect."

I have said that he was generous. Sir Miles spoke the truth when he declared that the doctor fed the starving and clothed the naked. Truly it seemed to me natural to believe that these good deeds of his must be a set-off to the great wickedness of his life. There were no occupants of the prison and its Liberties who were rich. Some there were who would have starved but for the charity of their friends. The poor prisoners were allowed to beg, but how could poor gentlemen like my guardians bear to beg for daily bread? Rather would they starve. As for the prison, I know nothing of it; I never saw the inside; it was enough for me to see its long and dreary wall. I used to think at night of the poor creatures shut up there in hopeless misery, as I thought, though Sir Miles declared that most of them were happier in prison than out; and beside the latticed gate there stood every day a man behind bars begging with a plate and crying, "Pity the poor prisoners."

Is it not sad that the same punishment of imprisonment must be meted out to the rogue and the debtor, save that we let the rogue go free while we kept the debtor locked up? Truly, the Vicar of St. Bride's or even the Dean of St. Paul's himself could preach no better sermon, could use no words more fitted to arrest the profligate and bring the thoughtless to reason, than that doleful cry behind the bars. Nor could any more salutary lesson be impressed upon young spendthrifts than to take them from house to house in the Rules and show them the end of graceless ways.

(To be continued)

RECENT POETRY AND VERSE

We have the work of a deceased Scottish verse-writer in "Records, and Other Poems," by the late Robert Leighton (C. Kegan Paul), but for the most part it cannot be said that they are of high poetic merit; in fact, with the exception of one or two vernacular pieces to be mentioned presently, there is no self-evident reason why they should have gone beyond the writer's immediate circle. The volume has a portrait as frontispiece, which shows a grand, massive head, with that troubled look on the face which might have been expected in the author of the work after its perusal. "Records" is a didactic life poem, in rather prosaic blank verse, which is not very interesting to an outsider, but contains one fine passage—viz., that beginning "God lights both stars and souls;" the last two lines on page 93 show very defective theology, and when one reflects why Jenny Geddes was set on the "cutty stool," her zeal for Reformation arouses a recollection of Saul among the prophets. "The Book" is painful, but "Seed Thoughts" and "The Bunch of Larks" are very good, the latter fine in its irony. "The Fox Famine in Ayrshire" is silly; and it is difficult to see what possible concern Mr. Leighton can have had with the Duke of Brunswick's diamonds. What a strange thing it is that even a Scotsman will persist in spelling "th" in the old form, as if it were really written with a "y"! When will people realise the old Saxon letter "thorn"? But "The Gaberlunzie's Song" is capital, and even better is "John and Tibbie's Dispute," a Scots version of the time-honoured story of "Scissors."

"Dolores: a Theme with Variations" (C. Kegan Paul) is unsatisfactory. There is evidence of an unusual command of various lyric measures, but the anonymous author must have a defective musical ear; the sudden transitions are not happily managed, and in places a line distinctly jars; for instance, at page 83, the stanza beginning "In early life" demands an Alexandrine in its terminal, instead of the nondescript line supplied; and, at page 88, "Now the moon," &c., will not scan by any rules whatever. The story is one of a young girl who fell in love with a congenital maniac who murders her cousin under strong provocation; she nurses him until his death, and, later in life, falls in love with Victor, a shipwrecked mariner, who jilts her, whereupon she apparently devotes her life to good works, and finally dies from being caught in a snowstorm. But the poem—it has some claim to that title—is almost too discursive to be readily understood, it bears strong traces of the influence of "Maud," and there is too much didactic matter, and too little story. There are good passages, amongst the best of which are those beginning "Since all things are the gift of Heaven," "The squirrel sprang from bough to bough," and "Souls have no age;" the ending also, "What is the martyr spirit," is really fine. But the author needs to spend more time in polishing, and some lines are painfully suggestive of the ordinary metre of burlesque. By the by, how could a priest be saying Mass if the bell was ringing for compline? Such petty inaccuracies often raise a ludicrous idea in an otherwise fine passage, and might so easily be avoided.

ROMAN REMAINS AT BRADING, ISLE OF WIGHT

"THE Isle of Wight," says Mr. Cornelius Nicholson, in his interesting monograph on this subject, just published by Mr. Elliot Stock, "is replete with archaeological interest: peppered, it may be said, with antiquarian relics. As it has been successively occupied by every tribe of settlers that has contributed to the pages of English history, it presents on its material surface a chart of our early annals."

"Vespasian occupied the island about A.D. 43, and took possession of Carisbrooke, admirably suited, on account of its elevated position, to be the Capitolium of the island. Within a hundred yards of that fortress the now well-known Roman villa was discovered in 1858. This is dwarfed into insignificance by that at Brading, recently unearthed, and which is situated on the lower slope of a chalk hill, overlooking an inlet of the Solent, called Brading Harbour, where the Roman galleys could ride and anchor in perfect safety."

"Only the principal apartments are yet brought to light, and the Porta, or main entrance, is still undiscovered. A dozen entertaining rooms are disclosed in one suite of the buildings, one of which—it

may have been a corridor—is sixty feet long. This block alone measures some two hundred feet by fifty-two."

"But the striking distinction of this villa, next to its ample dimensions, consists in the number and elegance of its mosaic pavements. There is nothing like this grouping in England, if elsewhere. The State apartment, 50 feet by 18 feet, presents from end to end the features of a horizontal picture gallery, a tessellated Pinacotheca." Our artist's description of his drawing is given below. We will here, therefore, merely add that the first and minor portion of this villa was revealed by Captain Thorp and Mr. W. Munns, of Brading, in April last; the major portion has been excavated under the superintendence of Messrs. J. E. and F. G. H. Price. These gentlemen, together with Mr. Nicholson, form a Committee to solicit subscriptions, and to try and preserve these important relics of the past.

Fig. 1 is the smaller half of what is supposed to be the reception room of a Roman noble's villa. This is the most complete portion of the discovery, the tessellated flooring being almost intact.

At the eastern end is a group of Tritons and Naiads, within an ornamental border, and joining is a square, 9 feet 6 inches in width, in the centre of which is the head of Medusa. Then we have in four oblongs, Daphne, surprised by Apollo, being turned into a laurel tree (the leaves are shown in the gracefully flowing garment), in the act of transformation. Next (moving with the sun) are Apollo and a female figure surrounded by serpents; a shepherd with a Pan-pipe and shepherdess, playing on a drum with her elbow and dancing; and, lastly, Ceres presenting an ear of corn to the husbandman. Between each oblong is a bust of Mercury playing a spiral shell-shaped horn. The whole is artistically surrounded with skilfully-planned borders.

Passing from this section of the reception room to the larger portion, the mosaics are not in so perfect a state, the centre of the square being almost gone, leaving but three corners, which represent the Seasons: "Spring," with the buds in her hair; "Summer," with fruit and flowers bursting; and "Winter," with a costume suggestive of mourning; "Autumn" is not traceable.

At the western end of this portion of the apartment is a group of figures: "Perseus Rescuing Andromeda" after having decapitated Medusa, whose head he is holding in his right hand. The reception room was supposed to be divided by means of a curtain, suspended from an arch. Beneath the curtain and annexed to the small square is the figure of an astrologer with a beard, and surrounded by a dial, globe, and crucible (Fig. 8). Before entering this apartment the visitor meets with a curious work, very much damaged, but quite perfect enough to suggest that the figure represents Orpheus with his lyre charming the wild denizens of the forest. There are the fore parts of a peacock, two other birds, a monkey, and a fox (Fig. 6).

Fig. 9 are bones of the wild ox, an extinct animal, a part of the horn of the fallow deer, and an iron nail. The comparative size of each may be judged when it is stated that the part of the femur bone measures 9½ inches. The above-mentioned subjects are on Lady Oglander's estate. The remains were first discovered on the adjoining farm. A shepherd was endeavouring to plant some hurdles to enclose sheep in a turnip field, when finding he could make no impression after a certain depth, his curiosity led him to dig. He then discovered traces of tessellated pavement; the ground was cleared, and the curious devices (Fig. 7) came to light. In the centre is a bust of Bacchante, in one corner Bacchus, Fox, and Grapes, and the strange figure of a man in a blouse, with a head and legs resembling a fowl. The other subjects are two flying leopards. Further operations will be carried on next spring, when it is anticipated that many more curiosities will be discovered. In the turnip field, which is ten acres in extent, there are numerous indications of foundations covering nearly the whole space.



MR. JEPHSON has considerable talent for rather broad comedy. The quality was subordinate, in the "Pink Wedding," to matters of real interest and consequence concerning life in the interior of Japan; but in the "Red Rag" (2 vols.: Bentley and Son) comedy, or rather farce, is the be-all—it would be the end-all also, were it not for a spasmodic splash into tragic effects in the last few chapters. The author has but few pretensions to humour in any true sense of the word, but rollicking fun has for a long time past been quite rare enough to be welcome for its own sake, and even without the recommendation of any higher or finer qualities. Such jokes as can be got out of a man's being a country mayor and a button manufacturer are doomed by their nature to be trite and stale, to say the best of them, but genuine high spirits compensate for many shortcomings. The button-making mayor is a man who feels towards the British army as a bull towards a red rag, and is contrasted with a fine lady who has the same prejudice against mayors and corporations. Of course the son of the fine lady is an officer in the army, who falls in love with the mayor's daughter. Hence arise a series of complications, occasionally sentimental, but more often farcical, and at last semi-tragic, which end in the general removal of prejudice all round, the fine lady finding out that even mayors' daughters are human creatures, and the button-maker adoring a red-coat to the point of imbecile dotage. The description of a riot and its suppression by a company of soldiers has touches of real vigour, and even of power.

In constructing the plot of "The Minister's Daughters," S. Francis has only too cleverly contrived to keep just within the limits of deference to the recognised rules of literary propriety. Whether to call S. Francis author or authoress, we hardly know, because he or she describes men as badly as most women, and women as badly as most men. Correctness in matters of millinery points clearly in one direction, while heaviness and clumsiness of style tend no less distinctly to an opposite conclusion. In any case, extreme youth and consequent inexperience are apparent in a pen whose holder evidently thinks it fine to seem to overleap conventional bounds while possessed of neither knowledge enough, nor of courage enough, to do so in reality. He—to make one pronoun stand for a doubtful two—wants to be called naughty while remaining good all the time, a curious, but very common symptom of youthfulness in an extreme stage. His characters share in this quality of their author. Except one, who is really a very wicked woman indeed, they seem to revel in a reputation for bad behaviour which they do not deserve. Unhappy marriages are of course the central topic, and provide texts for some out-spoken platitudes, evidently taken by the author for original ideas. Perhaps there is really a certain amount of originality in the seriously stated opinion put into the mouth of one of the characters that to steal a man's wife is as wrong as to steal his watch, and even a little more wrong. Clearly S. Francis rates a wife as of less importance than Iago professed to rate the value of a good name.

It is impossible to congratulate Jessie Sale Lloyd upon her theory or practice of novel-writing as illustrated by "The Silent Shadow" (3 vols.: Tinsley Bros.). Even the title is objectionable, as suggesting the mountain from which the mouse was born, and to call a governess who makes mischief with her tongue "A Silent Shadow" is something of a misnomer altogether. But there are several expressions in the volume which leave us in doubt as to whether Miss Lloyd is sufficiently acquainted with the correct meanings of many

of the words she uses, in spite of the general grandiloquence of her style. It is very difficult to speak of the novel as a whole without seeming to treat it with more harshness than is appropriate to any work of which even the faults are of a feeble character. Perhaps, therefore, it is enough to say that it belongs to a bad school, in which sentimentality, grandiloquence, and vulgarity go hand in hand. Neither can Jessie Sale Lloyd be held altogether responsible for the characteristic notes of the style of fiction which she has chosen, nor, as we are perfectly aware, are these qualities, even when joined, as they generally are, with feebleness of hand, bars to very considerable popularity.

Before "Whom Did She Love?" by Adair (1 vol.: Samuel Tinsley) criticism can only stand helpless and amazed. To do anything like justice to its transcendent incoherence is simply impossible. It is not a case of any known literary disease; it may be the first work of the prophet of a new literary era, for anything that we, in our possibly bewildered stagnation upon old paths, may dare to think or say. And yet the story is simple enough. It is that of a lady of high rank, for whose love her boy in buttons tried to kill her footman, and who herself caused the death of another lover in order that her husband might win a horse-race at Brighton. It is the spasmodic manner in which this graceful romance is told which make us doubt whether it be not half meant for a burlesque after all, instead of the outcome of some interval of leisure which could not have been wholly lucid in the common acceptance of the word. What slightly confirms the burlesque view is the deliberate statement, in a mysteriously worded preface, that the heroine of the murder and the Brighton races is still living in London. If this be so, we can only trust and believe that it is in one of those institutions whose inmates have peculiar mental facilities for enjoying, and possibly comprehending, her story.



MESSRS. MACMILLAN AND CO.—Part XII., Vol. II. of "A Dictionary of Music and Musicians" extends from "Palestrina" to "Plain Song." Although containing much information, it is not of equal interest with most of the preceding numbers. Most interesting of the articles are those on "Pianofortes" and "Pianoforte Playing," which occupy more than half the number; the article on "Plagal Modes" is well written and instructive, especially for the student of composition and harmony.

MESSRS. DUFF AND STEWART.—Again two poems by Long-fellow have by their sweet rhythm inspired to melody—"The Night is Calm and Cloudless" and "Shadows," both of which have been set to music in a musicianly manner by G. H. Lott.—Quaint words and music to correspond are combined in "The Merrie Anglers," a telling song for a baritone of moderate compass, written and composed by Madame Diani Ferri and N. Ferri.—"Melodious Whispers" is a brief and tuneful pianoforte piece by E. Wöycke.—A very pretty frontispiece of a plump redbreast in the snow will attract attention to "Song of the Robin," a piquant little piece for the pianoforte, which is much easier to play than it looks to be at first sight.—Two capital sets of quadrilles for the young folks to play and dance to are "Wee Bairnies" on popular Scotch melodies, and "The May Pole" on popular English melodies. Both are well arranged by Jules Rochard. The highly-coloured frontispieces represent children so ugly and so dreadfully ill-proportioned as almost to make us turn away in disgust. Surely the plainest of title-pages is preferable to such inartistic frontispieces as these!

MISCELLANEOUS.—"O Jerusalem," an anthem, duet, and chorus, music by Maria E. H. Stisted, words from Holy Writ, is exactly suited to the requirements of an amateur church choir, as, although it is somewhat difficult, practice will soon make it perfect (Messrs. Metzler and Co.).—Two useful songs, for voices of medium compass, are: "Wandering by the Waves" and "Could it be I Was Dreaming?" written and composed by Charles Lockwood and W. Mason (R. Gravatt, 11, King Street, E.C.).—"Les Adieux du Roi," the words of which are said to be written by Henri Quatre, music by C. Lorinda, possesses the charm of originality as far as the poetry goes, and the music accords well with the words (Messrs. Cunningham Boosey and Co.).—A song with a unison chorus is sure to find favour, especially at Christmastide. "The Sailor's Home," words by J. S. Murphy, music by P. von Tugginer, is just tuneful and cheerful enough to please the multitude (Finlayson Brothers, Glasgow).—There is something so bright and gay in the tempo of a tarantella, that we wonder it is not more often adopted by composers as a change from the much ill-used valse. "Tarantelle," for the pianoforte, by H. Tuddenham, arranged as a duet, is well worth the trouble of learning, and will set feet and tongues going at a dull after-dinner entertainment (Messrs. Augener and Co.).—Full of go and tuneful is "Pegase au Salon, a caprice brillante," by Ruloff, in 2-4 time (Messrs. J. B. Cramer and Co.).—"Ye Fancie Faire March" and "Ye Invitation Galop," by G. Newcombe, with their mediæval frontispieces, are of average merit in their school (G. Newcombe, Warrington).—As the time is well marked, dancers will condone the lack of originality in the "Floreat Lindum Galop," by J. Cooke, jun., whose portrait adorns the frontispiece (Messrs. Wood and Co.).—"The Royal Navy Waltz," by Percival S. Jaques, is pretty, and above the average of its kind (Messrs. Metzler and Co.).—Surely something more novel might have been found than the hackneyed "Sweetheart Waltz" and the "Tout à la Joie Polka" for the Christmas Number of Chappell's *Musical Magazine*? There are people no doubt who never tire of what is pretty; for them the revivals will possess a charm. "A Grandes Guides," a brilliant galop, by A. Etterlin (No. 7), is the best thing in the number (Messrs. Chappell and Co.).

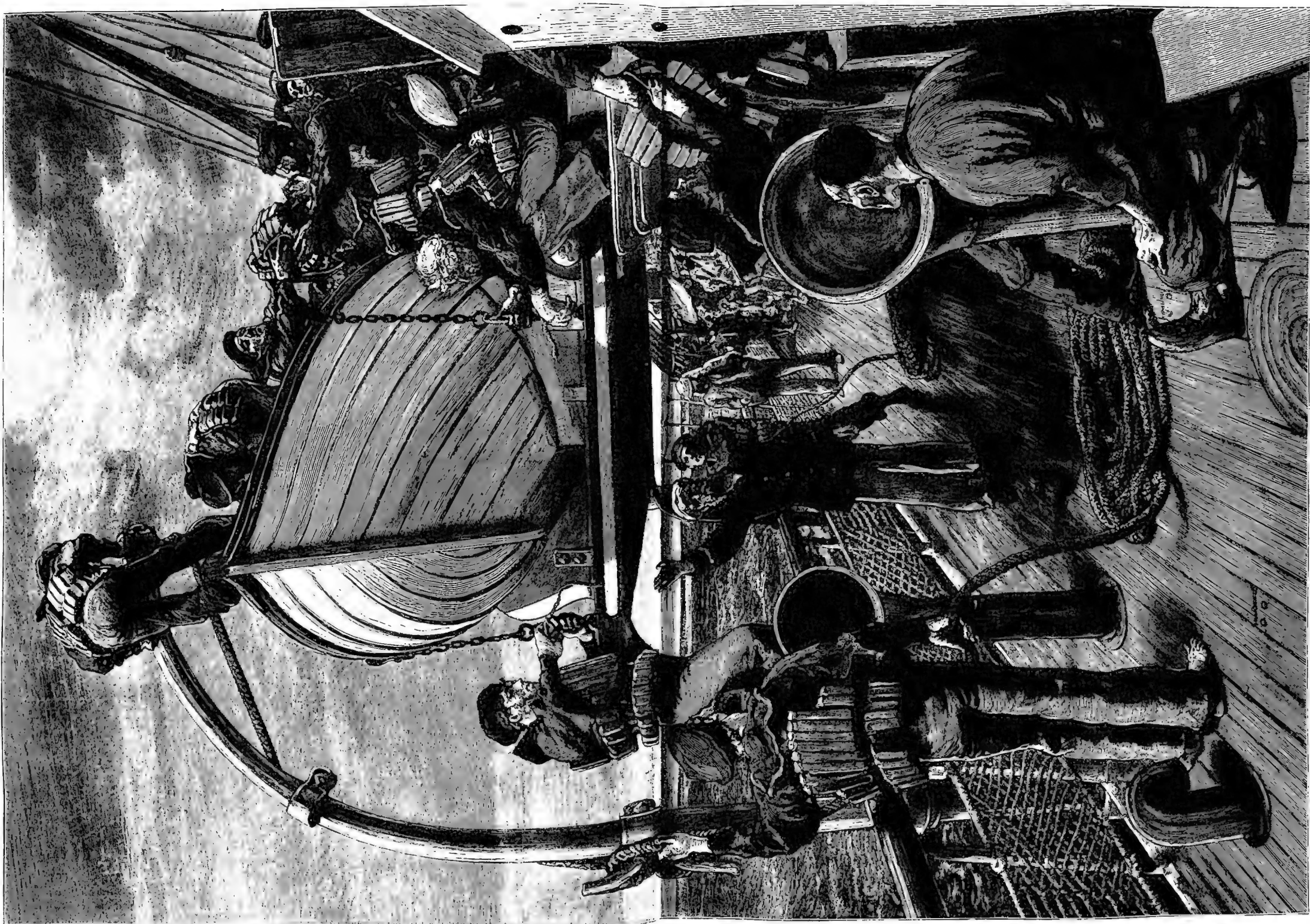
REMEMBER

You said you'd write ere the year was over,
And winter's come and the year near end;
O not as lover writes unto lover,
But just, you know, as a friend to friend.
This line is only to say my home is
The same old village; I feel somehow,
You could not fail me or break a promise:—
Remember, now!

Still, while the skurry of snows sun-smitten
Flush'd up the rivers and swell'd the rills;
And summer's blossoms, and rose love-litten,
Grew pale, and died as the daffodils;
And hedgerows glisten'd adrip, and whiten'd,
And brambles redden'd with hips again;
For your word given how my heart lighten'd!—
Remember, then!

Through blind ill-hiding a window, that is
Alit and ruddy in front of me,
I, at my blacken'd and frost-scrawl'd lattice,
See fair hands trimming a Christmas tree;
For New Year's on us,—I trust, a better:
You will not dally? You will be true?
You'll keep your promise, and write the letter?
Remember, do!

T. A.



AN ALARM OF FIRE AT SEA—LOWERING THE LIFE-BOAT

For these play-hour costumes there is no material equal to serge in durability and strength. For boys, dark blue serge knickerbockers, loose at the knees; a blouse of the same, fastened in at the waist with a leather belt; double-kneed cashmere stockings; and, most important of all, canvas shoes, without heels, such as are worn at the seaside, and are comparatively noiseless. Who does not know the "clang of the school-boy's wooden shoon" heard all over the house?

But although the young folks are content to be simply dressed in the playroom, they like to look pretty in the drawing-room, or at the morning performances of pantomimes and other holiday treats. Baby must first be thought of. It is no longer the fashion to let our infants shiver with tied-up sleeves and bare chests, but as soon as their long clothes are taken off we put them into warm woollen frocks, with as little fulness as possible about the fat neck and shoulders. The best materials for this purpose are fine serge, French merinoes, or cashmere; white, pink, or pale green for a girl; blue or crimson for a boy. These tiny frocks are easily washed and dyed at home. Pretty pinafores may be worn to brighten up a frock when made of a neutral tint; for everything should look bright and fresh on Baby. This pinafore is made of muslinette, fine diaper, or washing silk; three rows of work, *guipure* lace, or Valenciennes insertion down the front of the bodice, round the neck, which is cut low, and the arm-holes. A band at the waist is preferable to a sash, as it does not interfere with the frock trimmings. It is on these small frocks, petticoats, and pinafores that young maiden aunts may exercise their taste in embroidering them with *crawls* or *filoselle*. If the former, it is well to steep the skeins in strong bran-water, so as to shrink them and fix the colours. Fancy shoes and *bottines*, even the tiny socks, may be quilted or embroidered daintily.

For those young people who begin to think themselves too old for the schoolroom early parties, of which they are in fact the heroines, and find themselves merely, if we may use the term, stop-gaps in a grown-up party, a period at which in Germany they are called "Buckfischen," consolation may be found in the fact that if they are tall and not too slim they may be mistaken for their grown-up sisters, who at Christmas parties wear really short dresses. After-dinner toilettes for them are not so quaint unless they are of artistic taste, when they may wear cream-coloured or white Indian silk with clinging skirts, a narrow frill at the hem, a short waist, and a broad sash, tied behind, the hair dressed high, long lace mittens and Queen Anne shoes. This is the picture of an ancient young belle, which to our taste is not to be compared with a young belle of the period, with graceful and supple movements the result of modern training for our girls, gymnastic and other outdoor exercise.

Two young friends of ours, under sixteen, are models of hard-working students at home. The one, who is very dark and tall, has passed all the Cambridge examinations as far as her age will permit, but carefully hides her light under a bushel, and has as many Christmas games as 'ologies at the tips of her fingers; she takes as much interest in her dress as does the shallowest-brained damsel created. Not being rich she finds time to design, and even make, her holiday dresses. This is what she wore at a merry party on Christmas Eve. A plain skirt of pale blue velveteen, four inches from the ground; a scarf of cream-coloured Indian silk, two yards wide, embroidered at the edge with pink geraniums and shaded leaves, looped up on one side with a large bow and long ends, with pink and blue chenille large tassels. The blue velvet low corset bodice, without sleeves, is embroidered top and bottom with a wreath of geraniums and leaves, high chemisette, made with bands of lace insertion an inch wide, and finely gathered strips, two inches wide, of Indian silk; a double ruff of yellow lace at the throat; sleeves made with small

The other girl, who is extremely fair, wore a white gauze petticoat, with narrow flounces on the front very carefully graduated to the waist in groups of five or six inches of gauging between, five flounces round to the back. A long coat-polaïaise of pale mauve stamped velvet, the pattern delicately outlined with silver thread, white lace jabot, and ruffles.

We shall soon be overdone with series. Bacon, Berkeley, Hobbes, and others in the list of "English Philosophers" (Sampson Low and Co.), will appear also among Messrs. Blackwood's "Modern Philosophers," as, perhaps, will "Adam Smith," Mr. J. A. Farrer's contribution to Messrs. Low's series. We do not rate Adam Smith highly as a moralist, in which aspect alone Mr. Farrer looks at him, saying not a word about his great work, but giving a analysis, very useful for examinees, of his theory of the moral sentiments. Adam Smith's doctrine of sympathy was not original. Hume, in opposition to Mandeville, had already assumed the existence of a disinterested principle of benevolence underlying our moral sentiments. Clark and Hutcheson had asserted against Hobbes the existence of a moral sense wholly independent of human law. What they had partially applied Smith extended to the whole range of conduct, basing all on sentiment (internal sense) instead of on reasoning. The controversy is more important than the man with whose name it is mixed up. Adam Smith may be cold and wordy; but still the general foundation of morals, whether there is such a thing as disinterested benevolence, or whether we only feel pity because we argue that a like trouble may come on us, has in these days (even as it had a century ago) wholly superseded the old world inquiry into the *summum bonum*. The connection between sympathy and imagination is the basis of Smith's theory; but in admitting different kinds of sympathy—that of pity, and that of admiration, *e.g.*, for the rich, he comes very near to mere verbal quibbling. So in his platitudes on resignation, "because all that happens is for the greater interest of the universe," he enunciates a Stoicism which can never be a rule of life. Our business, however, is not with him but with his biographer, to whom we cannot award more than the praise of having made a fair analysis. Mr. Farrer gives the facts of Smith's uneventful life, the only significant one happened during his sojourn in France as tutor to the Duke of Buccleugh. There he met Turgot, who possibly opened to him his idea of Free Trade. Smith's coldness is shown in his calm acceptance of one code for the rich and another for the poor, and in his not having a word of rebuke for the cruel criminal law of his day.

not having a word of rebuke for the cruel criminal law of his day. "Kenna's Kingdom" (David Bogue) is the quaint title which Mr. R. Weir Brown gives to his ramble through Kensington. Most of the book appeared in a local newspaper; and it is largely drawn from Leigh Hunt's "Old Court Suburb" and other works. The misprints, such as "Weimer," are, we suppose, Mr. Brown's own. Kenna was Oberon's daughter; but we do not recommend any one to read, in Tickell's "dreary mythological poem," the story of her loves with Prince Albion. Mr. Brown throws Tickell aside, and suggests Kingston, "Cynine-stun," as the old form of the name.

to be ignorant of.

"Practical Ceramics for Students" (Chatto and Windus) supplies the demand for guidance which is being made by many amateurs. M. Janvier not only tells them what are the best materials, and how they are to be used, giving tabular analyses of pastes and other potters' materials, he also describes so completely the processes of manufacture that those who have hitherto been content to draw on tiles may, if they please, aspire to use muffle colours, to go in for moocoo and *émaux ombrants*, nay, even to make their own ware. The brief historical sketch is interesting; we note, for instance, that the Greeks, who must have known of the coloured glazes of Egypt and Persia, were content to make only coarse earthenware; and that Mexican pottery, though showing no trace of moulds or wheel, so strongly resembles that on the borders of the Mediterranean as to suggest kinship of race. In his "Æsthetic Hints" M. Janvier well says, "It is almost impossible to tell any one how to do good decorative work." "Every one his own decorator" would lead, to strange results; and the best book on the subject—Zeigler's "Études Céramiques"—can only be seen (says our author) in the Astor Library, New York, which seems incredible, seeing it was published in Paris thirty years ago. A grand mistake, not confined to beginners, is to strive after unity of tone, instead of seeking to bring a shimmer, or play of colour, even into monochrome.

Any one who thinks of stock-raising had better read Mr. A. A. Hayes's "New Colorado" (Kegan Paul). Mr. Hayes gives a catechism of stock-raising backed by a very tempting balance-sheet, and in addition to probable profits there is the advantage of living in air as exhilarating as champagne. He recommends the career to young men conscious of the drawbacks of business life in great cities, and assures them that in the doorway of the hotel at Pueblo they may meet among miners, and, like them, in broad felts and rusty flannel shirts, "ex-officers of crack regiments and others who talk with faultless Piccadilly accent of the latest London gossip." We have heard of such men on Australian and New Zealand sheep runs; but they seldom thrive there. If, as Mr. Hayes says, they do get on well in Colorado, so much the better. The book will interest others besides health-seekers and intending cattle-raisers. It describes in a pleasing style some of the grandest scenery in the world, and gives lively pictures of stage coach drivers, grub-stakers, "road agents," and legislators whose council hall was a wood shanty. On the Indian question Mr. Hayes is very decided; he thinks there is a judgment for nations, and for his nation he fears it will be a sharp one. He is wrong, we take it, in saying that those who have built big brown-stone houses exclaim, "The Chinese must go!" It is not the capitalist who wishes to get rid of the Chinese. He is more anxious than even the philanthropist to keep them, and to treat them decently. The illustrations are very good; the Holy Cross mountain seems quite to deserve Bayard Taylor's praise.

Cross mountain seems quite as descriptive Bayard's map of the Alps. Messrs. Letts, Son, and Co. have issued a "Popular Atlas," which contains some most valuable features, amongst which we may mention especially the different depths of the ocean shown by means of various shades of blue. Other features interesting to the student of physical geography, such as the districts of the greatest number of volcanoes, glaciers, &c., are to be found in the "Atlas," and some useful commercial information respecting the railways of England and Wales and the lines of submarine telegraph cables is provided. —Messrs. Letts have also sent us a selection from their diaries, &c., which reached us too late for notice last week. This firm are perhaps unrivalled in the variety of these articles. They produce no less than 397 different kinds of bound books, and, judging from the samples submitted to us, there is something to suit all occupations and all pockets.

Thomas à Kempis's "Imitation of Christ" is the latest addition to Mr. Kegan Paul's series of vellum-bound *éditions de luxe*. The general style of the volume is as old-fashioned and handsome as those of its predecessors, and to our minds even more suited to such a work as the one in question than to Tennyson's "In Memoriam" or "Selections from Shelley."

THE CHINESE IN CALIFORNIA are beginning to complain of lack of work, and 850 Celestials in one vessel alone recently left San Francisco, having heard that there was a demand for skilled labour in their own country. So anxious were they to go that they spent the night before sailing camped outside the wharf, and the rush to the vessel when the gangway was opened resulted in a perfect riot. Among her stores the steamer carried a supply of coffins, rudely made of trunks of trees sawn in half, in which the bodies of those Chinese who die on the voyage are preserved till China is reached.

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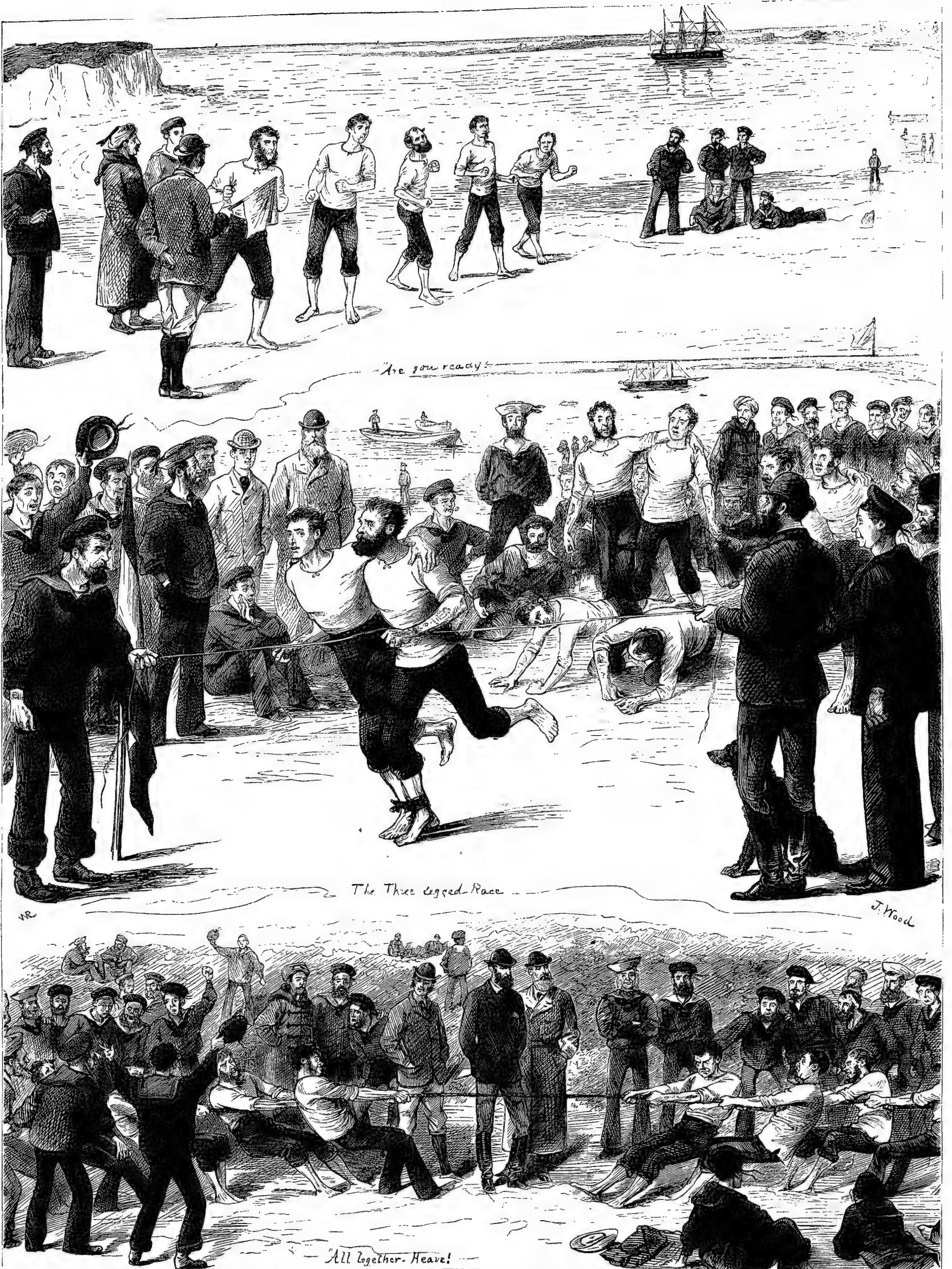
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THE PROPOSED PANAMA CANAL -- COUNT FERDINAND DE LESSEPS AND HIS FAMILY



EASTERN AFFAIRS.—The arbitration proposal having been conditionally accepted by the Great Powers has now been semi-officially communicated to Greece and Turkey, and all the ambassadorial influence is now being brought to bear upon the two Governments, in order to induce them to accept it. At present their efforts do not appear to be meeting with the desired success, and Turkey, asking with some show of reason why she should submit the matter to judges who had already decided against her, proposes to issue a circular embodying the reasons for her refusal. Nor is Greece any more conciliatory, as, despite all diplomatic arguments, M. Comoudouros declares his firm determination to hold to the frontier recommended by the Conference. Perhaps this "firmness" is enhanced by the fact that he has now some 48,000 men under arms, and that shortly he will have 80,000 troops on an active war footing. The Marine Minister is also pushing forward naval preparations, especially with regard to torpedo boats, which are expected to keep off Hobart Pasha and his ironclads from attempting an invasion by sea. At Constantinople also there have been continual Cabinet Councils on the question, and the Minister of War is not neglecting war preparations. Thus two ironclads have been brought from their winter quarters inside the Golden Horn, and have been despatched to the Archipelago. Notwithstanding, the Powers are not relaxing their efforts to bring about an understanding, and there is a vague rumour that the matter may possibly be submitted to the arbitration of six neutral Powers, whose interests are in no way affected by the question. There has been a slight Ministerial crisis at the Porte on the financial question, which has resulted in the supersession of the Minister of Finance, Subi Pasha, by Tewfik Pasha, an ex-Artillery officer, who will probably turn a more attentive ear to the demands of the War Minister than did his civilian predecessor.

There has been a serious crisis in Eastern Roumelia, which resulted in Aleko Pasha sending his resignation to the Porte, though he was eventually persuaded to withdraw it. It appears that the Assembly had declined to vote a sum of 2,000*l.* which Aleko Pasha required for fitting up his official residence, and that he construed this into an expression of want of confidence and disapproval of his past policy.

FRANCE.—The Assembly adjourned on Tuesday for the New Year holidays. The closing incident was another extraordinary escapade of M. Laisant, who, not content with bringing gross accusations against General Cissey, sent a letter to the Committee of Investigation containing grave charges against M. de Girardin on the faith of the widow of M. Duvergier de Hauranne, who, he declared, was ready to give evidence. The veteran journalist was accused not merely of being an emissary of Prince Bismarck, but of being the "chief of German spies." The Committee returned to M. de Laisant his letter with the reply that it was irrelevant to the De Cissey case, but M. de Girardin getting wind of it, called upon M. Laisant on Monday to justify his charges before the Chamber. After a somewhat stormy scene, in which even the most bitter political opponents of M. de Girardin warmly protested against impugning the probity of a man who is universally known as a thoroughly upright and honest patriot, M. Laisant read the letter, which declared that the writer had heard from a female confidant that M. de Girardin had sent Prince Bismarck a report on the French war, that his object was to bring about a fresh war, and eventually to restore the Empire. These allegations were received with simple shouts of laughter, and the rejection of the letter by the Committee was approved by an overwhelming majority. Before separating the Senate passed the Budget, and consequently the proposition for taxing Religious bodies has become law without that fierce discussion which was expected. The next Session will open on the 11th inst.

PARIS has been exceedingly gay and festive, and Christmas bids fair to become as popular a festival as the *Jour de l'An*. This is due in no slight measure to the yearly *fête* to the Alsatian children, which took place this year in the Hippodrome, owing to the great concourse of spectators. The children numbered 4,000, and the Christmas tree, which had been sent from the Vosges, was fifty feet high. After the children had received their presents, they in their turn distributed twigs from the tree amongst the visitors, M. Gambetta receiving his from the little daughter of the ex-station master of Reichshofen. The Boulevards are as closely packed as ever with the stalls groaning beneath loads of toys, nicknacks, and sweetmeats, while the fine weather of Christmas Day tempted thousands out into the streets, which were thronged with holiday makers. There has been no theatrical novelty of note, and people have been busy calculating how many new pieces have been produced during the past year. These make a total of 254 acts, not reckoning operas and operettas, which comprise 35 acts. Two plays only have been brought out by the Français—*Daniel Rochat* and *Garin*. The Carnival Balls are to be held after all in the New Opera House, three taking place before Lent, on Jan. 27, Feb. 12, and Feb. 26, and one at Mi-Carême, March 24.

The coming Municipal Elections are the chief political topic at present. The Religious Defence Association has issued an urgent address to Catholics, dwelling upon the monastic dispersions, the increased taxation of Religious Orders, the threatened subjection of Seminarians to military service, the expulsion of Sisters of Mercy from hospitals, and the removal of crucifixes from schools, as proofs that it is a question of life and death for religious liberty. The Positivists, who appear to be gaining ground in France just now, have also issued an address deprecating class candidature or the exclusion of any shade of Republicanism, and condemning any fresh loans for public works, as they assert that the apparent rise in wages thus caused is neutralised by the increased cost of living.—The statue mania continues. An effigy of Denis Papin, whom the French regard as the inventor of the steam engine, has been unveiled at the Conservatoire des Arts et Metiers; while at Besançon, M. Victor Hugo has been honoured by the inauguration of a bronze tablet on the house where the poet was born.—A French ironclad, the *Richelieu*, caught fire on Wednesday in Toulon Harbour. She was scuttled and sunk.

GERMANY.—Christmas festivities have overshadowed political affairs this week, and there is consequently little to chronicle save the continuance of the anti-Semitic crusade, owing to which large numbers of Jews are preparing to emigrate to more congenial and liberal climes, such as England, Belgium, and France.—The raising of the Russian export duties has created considerable alarm in the commercial circles of Eastern Germany, on account of the injury which is expected to accrue to the trade of those provinces.—Germany as usual is making preparations for an eventual war with one or other of her neighbours, and in the course of a few days there is to be a meeting of the Land Defence Committee, under the Presidency of the Crown Prince, and strengthened for the occasion by two Generals on active service. The questions to be considered are new fortification works, and new arms for the infantry.

RUSSIA.—The semi-official account from the Russian capital with regard to the negotiations with China represents them to be progressing favourably, but at the same time it is significant that Japan is preparing a most enthusiastic reception for the Russian Admiral and his fleet. Japan and China have long been on

questionably friendly terms, and should a war break out between Russia and China it is not difficult to foretell which side Japan will either overtly or occultly espouse.—The new tariff by which all imported goods will be subject to an increased tax of 10 (or rather 13 per cent., owing to the money having to be paid in gold), will take effect on New Year's Day, Old Style (January 13).—General Skobeleff appears to be pushing forward his expedition. On the 13th ult. he moved forward from Bami, dividing his army into three columns, of which he himself led the first, or fighting division, composed of 4,000 men. He is expected to reach Geok Tepe to-day.

INDIA.—Lord Ripon is now convalescent. He left his bed for the first time on Friday, and it is hoped that he may leave Allahabad for Calcutta on the 3rd inst. The chief official topic just now is the Census, for which very careful preparations are being made, in order to insure it being the most complete record yet obtained of the Indian people. Special steps are to be taken to procure information respecting the criminal tribes of Bengal, and when these lists are obtained the police will be instructed to keep them constantly and carefully corrected.—From the Sonthal country there are no fresh outrages reported, but as disturbances are apprehended reinforcements have been sent into the country, and an ascetic has been arrested named Babajee, who possesses great influence with the Sonthalis, and who is a leader of the anti-census movement. Some idea of his influence may be gathered from the fact that when he suddenly issued an order that the people should kill every white animal they possessed it was unhesitatingly obeyed.

From AFGHANISTAN there is little news, but that little is good. Candahar is quiet, and caravans from all parts continue to arrive. The ex-Wali Sirdar Shere Ali Khan has arrived in India, and at his own desire has been allowed a temporary residence at Kurrachee. At Herat Ayoub Khan is stated to have put to death his father-in-law, Khan Agha Jamshadi, who recently abandoned the coalition against Ayoub, and voluntarily came over to him. This arbitrary act was intended to cow the refractory Aimak tribe into submission.

UNITED STATES.—There is an interesting letter in Monday's *Times*, giving an account of the great interest taken in Irish affairs throughout the Union, not only by the Irish Americans, but by the Americans themselves. It is only natural that sympathy should exist for Ireland and the Irish amongst that large class of the population who have either emigrated themselves thence, or whose fathers and mothers have hailed from the Emerald Isle. These, we are told, "are the real supporters of hundreds of thousands of the unfortunates in Ireland who might have to face starvation if they had not relations across the Atlantic. In small drafts and Post Office Orders they send millions of money to the Old Country to provide support for those who cannot come to America, and passage tickets for many of those who do come. . . . They do not contribute much to 'Fenian Funds' or for political agitation, for past experience has taught wisdom to most of them, but their dollars go all the same, and are the means of support for a very large share of Ireland's almost destitute agricultural classes. As for the Americans themselves, the class who rule the United States, and whose hearts are always touched by the miseries of any race, their purses are always open to relieve suffering, but they do not wish to contribute for political agitation or for the purchase of arms, and they strongly disapprove of assassination or agrarian outrage as a means of righting wrongs. Therefore, if it may be said in Ireland that the Americans are willing to contribute to political agitation funds, or for arms-buying, or for any purpose excepting pure charity to the suffering, or that they approve of fitting-out armed expeditions, or the sending of arms from this side, or that they desire sympathy for Irish misfortune to be distorted into an approval for wrong-doing and outrage—the men who may say this in Ireland make a great mistake."

THE REBELLION IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Notwithstanding the Circular of Messrs. Kruger, Pretorius, and Jonbert, the Triumvirate who have revived the Republic at Heidelberg, declaring their desire to avoid war, the Boers have lost no time in taking forcible measures, and on the 20th ult. attacked a detachment of 250 men of the 94th Regiment while marching from Leydenberg to Pretoria as an escort to a transport train of some thirty-four waggons. It appears that the train, which is stated to have been half a mile long, got fast in a swamp, and that the troops, having for the moment laid aside their arms in order to extricate the waggons, were attacked near Middelberg by the Boers, and manifestly defeated, a number being shot and taken prisoners. The exact loss is not known. At first it was reported that 120 had been killed and wounded; but a *Times* telegram has since contradicted this, and places the number at thirty, the remainder being disarmed, and allowed to retire to Pretoria. One officer, Lieutenant Harrison, the adjutant of the regiment, was killed; and the commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Anstruther, Captain Nairne, and Lieutenants M'Sweeney and Hume were severely wounded. On the 18th a large force of Boers occupied Potchefstroom (the second town of importance in the territory), after a gallant defence of forty-eight hours by Major Clarke, who, with twenty-five men, was ultimately obliged to surrender owing to want of water. One officer, Captain Falls, of the 21st, and four residents had been killed. Major Clarke, by the way, is said to have fired the first shot of the war. The garrison camp, however, occupied by Colonel Bellairs and 120 men, up to our last advices, was holding out, and had repulsed an assault of 1,200 Boers on the 20th ult. Their situation was considered extremely critical, and it was expected that they would ultimately have to surrender. All the shops of the town have been broken open and their contents carried away by the Boers in waggons. President Kruger arrived on the 20th, and held a council of war, at which it was resolved to starve Colonel Bellairs into submission. An officer, Captain Lambert, of the 21st, is a prisoner at Heidelberg. He had shot through the arm a Boer who had attempted to hoist the Republican flag at Potchefstroom. The greatest possible excitement reigns throughout the Transvaal, and several further massacres are reported. The town of Utrecht also has been seized, and forcible recruiting is being carried on there, the penalty for refusal being death, while there has been a meeting of Boers near Wakkerstroom, and an attack on the town is threatened. Sir George Cumine Strahan, the Administrator at the Cape, has telegraphed to England for reinforcements, particularly cavalry; but meanwhile all available troops are being pushed forward to the front, including troops which appear to have arrived in the nick of time in the *Humber* and the *Anglian*.

In BASUTOLAND the situation is unchanged, save for a successful engagement which Colonel Baker has had with Umhlonhlo's army, in which three hundred Basutos were killed, and Umhlonhlo himself was wounded.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The earthquake which for some months has been reducing Agram to a heap of ruins has now extended eastwards. In ROUMANIA there have been several sharp shocks; while on Christmas Day, in RUSSIA, there was a violent shock at Kischeneff and Odessa.—In SWITZERLAND, M. Anderwert, the President-elect for 1881, has committed suicide at Berne, owing, it is said, to temporary insanity on account of the small majority by which he had been elected and the virulent attack of the Opposition Press.—In ITALY, the Pope is said to be about to issue an important document on Irish affairs, repudiating Archbishop Croke's recent interpretation of his words.—In CYPRUS there have been serious floods, owing to the heavy rains. At Limasol sixty houses were destroyed and eight lives lost. The damage is estimated at 70,000*l.*—There is a report of piracy from the PELLEW ISLANDS, where a British schooner has been pillaged by the islanders. A British vessel-of-war will be sent to the scene of the outrage.



THE Queen was joined in the Isle of Wight for Christmas by the Princess Louise, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and Prince Leopold. According to custom on Christmas Eve, there was the usual distribution at Osborne of presents to the families on the Royal estates, as well as a Christmas tree for the children attending Whippingham Schools, and Her Majesty and the Princesses themselves gave away the gifts. On Christmas Day the Queen and the Royal Family attended Divine Service at Whippingham Church, where the Rev. Canon Prothero officiated, and on Sunday morning Divine Service was performed before the Royal party at Osborne by Canon Prothero. The Duke of Connaught spent Monday in shooting, and in the evening Col. Barry Drew, commanding the troops at Parkhurst, and Col. Maude, joined the Royal Family at dinner. On Tuesday the Duke and Duchess of Connaught left Osborne, crossing to Portsmouth in the *Alberta*.

The Prince and Princess of Wales spent Christmas alone with their daughters at Sandringham, where, after attending the Duchess of Westminster's funeral, the Prince arrived on Christmas Eve in time to superintend the usual distribution of beef to the cottagers on the estate. On Christmas morning the Prince and Princess and their family attended Divine Service at St. Mary Magdalene's, and in the afternoon went to the Service at West Newton, while on Sunday morning they attended Divine Service at St. Mary Magdalene's. On Tuesday the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Prince Christian arrived on a visit. On Wednesday the Prince and Princess and their guests attended the meet of the West Norfolk Hounds at Harpley Dam.—Princes Albert Victor and George, in the *Bacchante*, reached Monte Video last week.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited Portsmouth on Tuesday, and stayed with Prince and Princess Edward of Saxe-Weimar. He visited Chichester, and Bognor on Wednesday, and was to return to London on Thursday.—The Duke and Duchess of Connaught go next week to stay with Lord and Lady Alington, at Crichel House, Dorset, arriving on Monday. The Duke has become President of the Council for Establishing Coffee Taverns for the Army and Auxiliary Forces.—Princess Christian on Wednesday opened a new Cottage Hospital, at Englefield Green, near Egham.—Prince Leopold will preside at the yearly festival dinner in aid of the funds of University College Hospital in May next.

Vienna is fast completing her plans for Prince Rudolph's wedding festivities. The bride will have a splendid reception on her arrival on St. Valentine's Day, and will be met at the station by 100 girls in white, accompanying a municipal deputation. The procession will pass through the illuminated streets and the squares brightened by electric light to the Palace.



THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES in the churches and chapels of London and the suburbs were in most instances attended by full congregations. Dean Church preached at St. Paul's Cathedral, Dean Stanley at Westminster Abbey, the Rev. H. White at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, the Rev. W. Hulton at the Chapel Royal, Whitehall, and the Rev. F. Garden at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. At the Ritualistic churches Early Celebrations were held, in some instances as early as 5 A.M.; and at the Roman Catholic places of worship High Mass was celebrated in the forenoon, according to custom. At Mr. Newman Hall's church, and at the Congregational Chapel, ministered to by Mr. J. Guinness, selections from the *Messiah* were performed after the sermons.

INNOCENTS' DAY.—Following his annual custom, Dean Stanley preached on Tuesday (Innocents' Day) to a large congregation of children at Westminster Abbey, taking as his text the forty-first verse of the fifth chapter of St. Mark, and translating the Saviour's words to the dead child as "My little lamb, my little pet lamb, I say unto thee, Arise."

THE NATIONAL SOCIETY for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church has just received 2,000*l.* from an anonymous donor, "A. B. C."

THE PROPOSED NEWCASTLE BISHOPRIC.—The Committee for the formation of this new Diocese held its first meeting last week, under the presidency of the Duke of Northumberland, and resolved to set on foot a general canvass throughout the Diocese to complete the sum necessary for the endowment. The total amount now promised is over 29,000*l.*, exclusive of Mr. Heilley's bequest of 15,000*l.*, and the amount still required is 20,000*l.* The subscriptions include 10,000*l.* from the Duke of Northumberland, 3,000*l.* from the Bishop of Durham, and 3,000*l.* from Colonel Joicey, M.P.

THE RITUALISTS.—The Primate, replying to a letter from the Bishop of Tasmania respecting the Ritualists, says that he sees no reason why some satisfactory solution of present difficulties might not be arrived at "if those who are dissatisfied with the government of the Church would only state definitely what it is that they desire."—The Rev. R. W. Enraght has received a very large number of Christmas cards and congratulatory letters on his determination not to accept the terms offered for his temporary release.

A QUAKER MEMORIAL HALL.—Part of the old Burial Ground of the Society of Friends having been taken by the Board of Works, under compulsory powers, for the widening of Coleman Street, Bishopsgate, the purchase money has been devoted to a Memorial Building now in course of erection, which will include a Coffee Palace and a Mission Hall, where, beside evangelistic work, a Penny Bank and a Sick Benefit Society will be carried on. The remainder of the ground, containing the graves of George Fox and other members of the Society of Friends, is to be laid out as a garden.

MR. VOYSEY'S THEISTIC CHURCH.—The Rev. C. Voysey, writing to the *Daily Telegraph* to correct some mistakes made in the report of a recent service at Langham Hall, says that he and his friends have from the very first honestly refused to call themselves Christians, a name to which the orthodox might well dispute their right. He goes on to say that they are Theists, equally opposed to Orthodoxy and Agnosticism, and much more to Positivism and Comtism. As to his attitude towards the Church of England, he adds that he is a Nonconformist against his will. He dissents from much of the teaching of the Church, but is not opposed, as Nonconformists are, to the present relations between Church and State. On the contrary, he sees in those relations the greatest promise of liberty to the clergy and the strongest safeguard against sacerdotalism; and it is on this ground chiefly that he retains his Orders in the Church of England, and continues to officiate in his surplice. He adds that most of his supporters are of high rank and culture, that 45,000 of his sermons are issued every year to all parts of the world, and that they are frequently reprinted in newspapers and translated into various languages.

THE YEAR 1880

GENERAL SURVEY.—Less conspicuous than many previous periods for stirring incidents of world-wide consequence, the year which yesterday came to a close has been rather one of change and expectancy than of performance. Of the burning questions of its opening months none have been wholly, few even partially, set at rest. Even of those whose solution cannot be much longer delayed, the issues still remain obscured by genuine perplexity or high-wrought party feeling. Contrary to precedent, it has been tranquil England which has this year enjoyed the high but somewhat unenviable distinction of "making history" for future chroniclers. At home the unexpected transference of power from the Conservative to the Liberal party in the State placed government in the hands of men who, though bound by constitutional exigencies to take on their predecessors' uncompleted work, avowedly do so with very different aims, and, as far as practicable, with different means and allies. Abroad, the intense need of peace which over-masters every Great Power on the Continent, and has changed the adventurous policy of former years to one of almost timid caution, has so reversed the ordinary rôle of States that it is England again which for the last few months has led and stimulated the party of action. Even our "little wars" in India and the Cape loom larger in a year when, but for a skirmish or two amid the sands of Asia, and the prolonged but far-off struggle between the Republics of the South American coast, the clash of arms has been nowhere heard beyond the limits of the parade ground. The condition of Ireland, whether best described as a gigantic strike against the land-owning capitalists, or as a state of smothered sedition within "measurable distance of civil war," presents, from the most favourable point of view, an area of disturbance and a seething mass of popular disaffection to parallel which we must go back to times of agitation which most had believed to be for ever passed away. In India complete disentanglement from Afghan complications is still retarded by the evident necessity of retaining, at least for some time longer, our hold on Candahar. At the Cape the troubles of a rashly-provoked native war, which may yet prove too much for the unassisted strength of the colonists, have been formidably aggravated by the revolt in the Transvaal—a revolt to which the natural antagonism of the Dutch and English settlers is not unlikely to impart peculiar bitterness. To restore in Ireland the reign of law, and at the same time lay the foundations of a new and better social order, to fix the limits of our Indian garrison, and tranquillise South Africa with due regard to the interests and claims of the white man and the black, might alone tax the powers of the strongest Administration. Yet for England itself, the heart and brain of the great Empire, the year, save for the clouds in Ireland and at the Cape, has not been altogether inauspicious. The campaign in Afghanistan closed with a really brilliant feat of arms. The resources of the country and the general well-being, despite some suffering among the farming classes, and a harvest only a little better in many counties than the disastrous one of '79, have steadily advanced with the continued improvement of trade. Even our Continental policy has not been fruitless, and has kept together that European Concert on which the peaceful settlement of still outstanding difficulties depends.

Elsewhere in almost every country the old year closes more hopefully than it began. France, though abandoning with more speed than prudence the old restraints of the *République Conservatrice*, and trampling with unseemly roughness on the convictions of her sincere Catholics, can point with satisfaction to the amazing prosperity which in this year alone has permitted taxation to be reduced 5,000,000*l.* without disturbance to the Budget, and to the evident weakness (save in angry words) of all the parties, Monarchical or Revolutionary, who if strong might be dangerous to the existing Government.

In Germany and Austria the faint indications of a possibly aggressive policy visible early in the year have now almost all disappeared before the desire of the one country to find a practical antidote for Socialistic heresies, in the other to make good her position on the Danube, and restore harmony to her motley populations. In Russia the politic rule of Loris Melikoff—the hand of steel in the velvet glove—has checked, if it could not quite root out, the Nihilist conspiracy, which owed its consequence after all less to the number than to the daring of its members.

In Turkey alone the resistance of the Porte to every counsel of concession or reform—resistance so skilful as in most cases to perplex even experienced diplomatists with constant doubt how far *au fond* it is real or assumed—has reached in the dispute with Greece the point where one or other must give way or fight. The arbitration proposal, mooted first by France and accepted in principle by the other Powers, has found thus far slight favour with either disputant.

Beyond the Atlantic the great Republic of the West, triumphant in the victory of the Northerners at the elections, and basking in the full sunshine of material prosperity, finds its most serious business in plans for the refunding of the National Debt at a considerable reduction of the present rate of interest. Peru, though unable to cope with Chili in the field, or to defend her coast line against the Chilean Squadron, still stubbornly refuses to purchase peace by surrender of territory, and under the energetic Pierola is now preparing to stake her all on the defence of Lima against the anticipated attack.

The war between the Church and the World has been waged this year more bitterly than ever. Worst in France, in Belgium, in Germany, the Vatican boasts some slight gains in the East, some faint approach to friendlier relations with Russia, some hopes of reconciliation with Brazil. Yet though its tone is as defiant as of old, its policy for some time has displayed the weakness inevitable to a Power hardly pressed between over-zealous subjects who will not be restrained, and hostile Governments which have learned by experience the unwisdom of any attempt to conciliate the irreconcilable.

HOME AFFAIRS.—Dissatisfaction with the general results of a "spirited foreign policy" combined with difficulties of a more domestic kind to raise the hopes of Opposition leaders at the opening of the year. In Ireland, above all, where the Land League had already struck deep root in the congenial soil of Mayo, widespread distress from the very general failure of the last season's crops made discontent seem natural, if not justified. The exhaustless well of English and American charity prevented, it is true, distress from deepening into famine, and by providing seed as well as meal enabled the poor cottiers to prepare the land for the kindlier season which the Fates had in store. Still all this helped to make Government unpopular, though few probably among the Liberals, none certainly among Conservatives, were aware how strong was the repugnance excited among the masses by a mysterious foreign policy tending steadily, as it seemed, towards new and unpalatable alliances, and by wars which offended the conscience of the nation while only moderately satisfying its pride. The Premier himself, for all his shrewdness, failed to discern the power of a movement whose chief strength lay in strata a little perhaps beneath his ken, and elated by victory in two important contests, at Liverpool and Southwark, boldly ushered in a Dissolution with a Manifesto, in the shape of a letter to the Duke of Marlborough, which still further kindled popular suspicion, and banded the Irish vote against him to a man. Belief in Mr. Gladstone, distrust of the Premier and Lord Salisbury, fears of entanglement in foreign politics, Irish disaffection, Nonconformist discontent, all helped to swell the victory of the Liberals. And for a time the greatness of the blow seemed fairly

to overwhelm the beaten side. With the advent, however, of Mr. Gladstone to power as indispensable Prime Minister, the era of small revenges began at once. In the half apology to Austria for an unwise out-of-Session speech, in the failure to control the House in the vexed question of Mr. Bradlaugh's admission, and, again, in the turmoil of the Challengel-Lacour debate, the new Premier had thrice to suffer for over-hastiness and want of tact. Of graver and even yet unexhausted consequence was the rejection of his Irish Disturbance Bill by an overwhelming majority of Liberal and Conservative Peers. Still under his leadership the Session has shown fair results, while the Supplementary Budget bears evidence of unimpaired financial genius, the more gratifying for the comparison involuntarily and, perhaps, unfairly suggested with that unlucky blunder in the Indian Estimates which closed, as it were, with posthumous reproach the administrative "record" of the Conservatives. The foreign, like the home, policy of the Cabinet has been disappointing only in the sense of falling short of early anticipations. The Berlin Conference of the Powers, at England's suggestion, has traced the new boundary between Greece and Turkey, and enforced its recommendations with an Identical Note. The Naval Demonstration, organised under the same auspices, to compel the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier, has constrained the Porte, after long delays, to yield Dulcigno to the Mountaineers, though not until England had distinctly threatened to sequester, in case of continued resistance, the customs' dues of the Port of Smyrna. If performance at present has ended here, the want of energy must be charged on others. Meanwhile in Ireland things have gone from bad to worse. Taught by the Land League, the half-starved cottiers of the West found in a good harvest only a reason more to "hold the crops;" the substantial, but often deeply indebted, farmers of the richer provinces only a temptation to pay the landlord nothing more than "Griffith's Valuation." The murder of the inoffensive Lord Mountmorres in the summer initiated, as it was perhaps designed to do, a Reign of Terror, which the inflammatory speeches of the Land League leaders were better calculated to intensify than to allay. The prosecution of the chief speakers by the Crown, tardily resolved on and only this week commenced, has been powerless to still the popular excitement. Resistance to the League is punished by the social excommunication known now from the name of its first victim as "Boycotting." Evicted tenants are quietly re-instated. Evicting landlords find that none will serve them. Of course, capital is scared away from the country, land-owners are leaving in all directions, annuities and mortgages are at their wits' end. Still Irish tenants have undoubted grievances, and Government, in refusing to apply coercion without reform, are still probably in harmony with the most trusty of their supporters. It rests to be seen if just reforms will still satisfy the extravagant hopes which Messrs. Davitt and Parnell have deliberately raised.

INDIA AND THE COLONIES.—The closing days of 1879 saw the British once more occupying Cabul, while the chief leader of the hostile Afghans had fallen back upon Ghuznee. Repeated reverses had so far tamed the fiercest tribes that the rest of the winter passed quietly away. In the spring Sir Donald Stewart, marching from Candahar, crushed the Ghuznee insurgents in an encounter in which the charge of the Ghazi swordsmen made victory for a moment doubtful, and joined his forces to Roberts in Cabul. The later incidents of the campaign—the choice of Abdurrahman to be the new Ameer, the sudden appearance of Ayoub on the scene, the defeat of Burrows, the siege of Candahar, the march by Roberts' Ten Thousand of 318 miles in 23 days, the raising of the siege and rout of Ayoub, are all too fresh in present memory to need more than briefest mention here. Thus brilliantly came to an end a war in which was reaped much glory and some shame, but no advantage corresponding to the cost.

At the Cape Home Government and Colonial Ministry have rivalled one another in exasperating blunders. The recall of the energetic Sir Bartle Frere, after keeping him on at a lessened salary to push the scheme of Colonial confederation, the moment it was found the project must be abandoned, was quite a complication of errors on the part of a Cabinet which would have been perfectly logical if it had superseded him at the outset. The sharp enforcement of a sweeping Disarming Act—against whose dangers before he left the Cape Sir G. Wolseley had raised a warning voice in vain—caused panic first and then revolt among the loyal natives from the Basutos to the Pondomese—a revolt against which for all their gallantry and reiterated successes in isolated encounters the forces of the Colonists, who will not, if possible, ask aid from England, are struggling still as men against the sea. Still further north, the Boers of the Transvaal, disappointed in their hopes from Mr. Gladstone's Ministry, have at length taken arms against the British, and captured—it was first said annihilated—on their march a strong detachment of an English regiment on its way to reinforce the garrison of Pretoria. War with the Boers is now unavoidable, and regiments originally under orders for Ireland are even now *en route* for the coast of Natal.

Of our other colonies there is little to be told. From Melbourne we hear that the Exhibition is a success, and the Constitutional struggle between Parliament and Council set at rest at length by mutual concessions. Schemes for a Trans-Continental Railway in Australia, and in Canada for the completion of the long-contemplated line across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast, are still, perhaps, only in the stage of projects.

EASTERN EUROPE.—Heavily handicapped by domestic embarrassments, RUSSIA this year has shown little disposition to revive the adventurous policy of the past. The February attempt to blow up the Winter Palace with its Imperial residents was the culminating outrage of the more desperate Nihilists. The appointment of the able Melikoff as Chief of a Commission, with extraordinary powers, and information gained from a Nihilist prisoner, broke up to some extent the formidable league, though isolated efforts still demand the utmost vigilance from the Imperial Police. The refusal of France—on technical excuses nominally—to deliver up the fugitive Hartmann produced a coolness between the two Powers which effectually dissipated idle rumours of a possible Franco-Russian alliance. In his later post of Minister of the Interior General Melikoff has become generally popular, though the vision of a Constitution still remains as far as ever from probable realisation. In Asia Skobelev, despite some slight reverses, slowly and at infinite cost makes good his patient advance against the Tekke stronghold. In Europe the Czar, less interested in Hellenic than in Slavonic progress, seems for a time content to follow the initiative of England. In the dispute with China neither Power, though steadily making preparations for the worst, seems eager at present to incur the risk of war.

Still more embarrassed, even to the verge of beggary, TURKEY has yet been gathering herself together for better resistance to further spoliation. In her misguided effort to evade a trifling cession to MONTENEGRO, by appealing to the passions of the Albanian League, she would seem (from the recent arrest of three of the most popular Albanian chiefs) to have in a measure over-reached herself, and evoked a spirit too powerful to be controlled. The cession of territory claimed by Greece will be opposed on much more reasonable grounds, and strategic posts, like Janina, Metzoro, and Larissa, will doubtless only be surrendered, if at all, on direct compulsion. The attempt to come to terms with the bondholders hangs fire—the proffered terms resembling suspiciously an effort to gain a new loan on conditions—and money for immediate wants is only raised in petty sums from the banks at Galata. Turkish finance will hardly right itself, save under European supervision of the stringent kind, which has already worked so well in Egypt.

GREECE, on the other hand, has gone so far, that war with all its risks seems preferable to a prolonged endurance of her present burdens. The King's summer tour was on the whole a failure, and even of those who gave him most encouragement some, like M. Gambetta, have since then waxed cold. But for Greece, unlike Turkey, delay means ruin, and thus far at least there seems little ground to think that any proposal which will not contain a downright promise to secure her the possession of all, or almost all, the Conference decreed, will change her present fixed determination to hazard everything, even to war, in the spring.

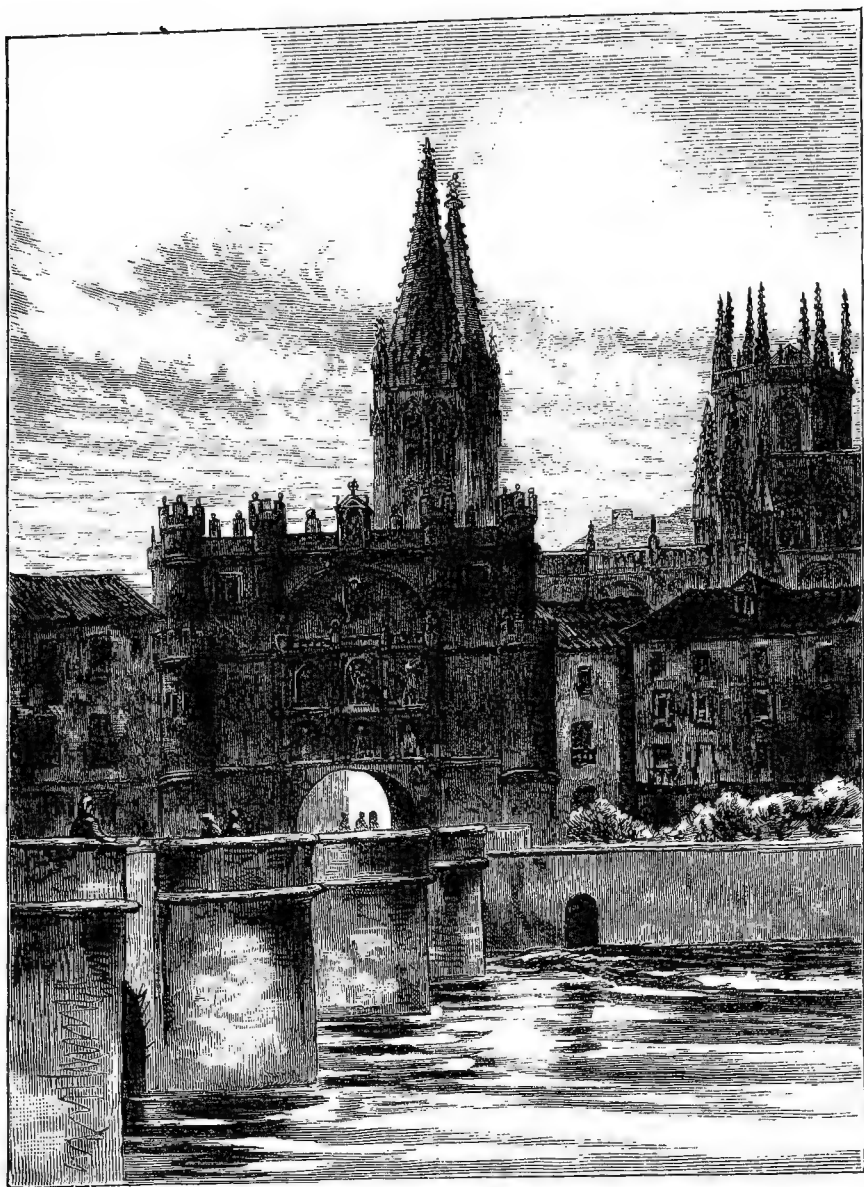
FRANCE.—If German political history has been 17 years the history of Prince Bismarck, French history for the last twelve months has been in hardly a less degree the story of M. Gambetta. In foreign policy his ardent spirit has once or twice led him somewhat farther than public opinion quite approved—a momentary imprudence from which on each occasion he has quickly but unostentatiously recovered himself. In home affairs he has twice this year shown that Ministers hold office simply at his pleasure. The Freycinet Cabinet, which, at the opening of the year, succeeded that of the too moderate M. Waddington, succumbed in September through the too great independence of its chief, who had dared at Montauban to administer a side rebuke to M. Gambetta's Chauvinistic Cherbourg speech, and who, in the execution of the March Decrees—the Chamber's revenge for the Senate's mutilation of M. Ferry's Education Bill—had attempted after the expulsion of the Jesuits to avoid through a private arrangement with the Vatican war to the knife against the other unauthorised Religious Orders. The Ferry Ministry, which next took office, had at the outset to prove itself submissive to a Chamber monthly growing less subordinate as the time for its dissolution draws more near, as well as to the secret wire-puller who alone can keep together a workable majority out of such jarring elements. In deference to both the war against the Orders has been carried through with indecorous zeal, the Magistracy Bill for the reduction of superfluous Courts and the weeding out, within a given time, of judges suspected of anti-Republican predilections, pressed on in preference to M. Ferry's own pet Bill for compulsory and gratuitous education, and proffered resignations humbly withdrawn lest the *Deus ex machina* should be forced to descend upon the stage too soon. The Clericals, of course,—materially strengthened by the deliberate insults offered to religion—have spared no pains both in the Chamber and in the Senate to cast discredit on their most formidable enemy. The passing of the Amnesty Bill in the summer and consequent return of a cloud of *Communards* has, on the other hand, produced a marked revival of extreme opinions, and a formidable opposition, headed by M. Rochefort, to M. Gambetta personally, and to his policy of Opportunism. But with Bonapartism rent in twain by the schism among its leaders, and Legitimism helpless through the impracticability of its chief, there is no party left which the Clericals can make dangerous; while against the *intransigents* the President of the Chamber can well hold his ground, and, as in the case of M. Rochefort, sometimes crush a foe by the timely use of compromising revelations. A Bill already introduced under his auspices for holding the next elections by *scrutin de liste* will, it is hoped, provide a Chamber less broken than the present into independent groups. The dangers from the rapid growth of Radicalism and from the uncompromising war against the Church are probably much over-rated by foreign lookers-on.

CENTRAL EUROPE.—In GERMANY Prince Bismarck still employs with unvarying success his old expedient of overcoming opposition by threats of resignation. The armaments of France and Russia, and whispered hints of an alliance between the two, were made early in the year a convenient argument for forcing through a reluctant Parliament the prolongation of the Army Bill for another seven years, and a further addition to the enormous host of some 90,000 men and over 300 guns. A later attempt to conciliate the Church by an amendment of the famous Falk Laws, leaving their enforcement to the discretion of the authorities, was less successful. The Vatican set its claims too high; the negotiations at Vienna were broken off, and at the national *fête* on the completion of the Cologne Cathedral, the Kaiser had to note the absence of the Archbishop—a lack of patriotism for which the Ultramontanes were punished by a fusion of Conservatives and Liberals to reject their candidate for the Presidency of the Prussian Chamber. Despite an occasional outcry against France—notably, after M. Gambetta's Cherbourg speech—a better feeling is clearly growing up between the two countries, while battles with the Socialists and counter-projects for the benefit of the workman have temporarily displaced in Prince Bismarck's mind his olden dreams of wars and of alliances. Though joining in the Naval Demonstration, the Chancellor has lately shown considerable goodwill to Turkey—a partial change of front in which France too has apparently imitated him. The Juden-Hetze, or Crusade against the Jews—a movement based, we fear, on jealousy—still burns with undiminished fury in Prussia, and has brought into the lists on either side the *élite* of Berlin's publicists and professors.

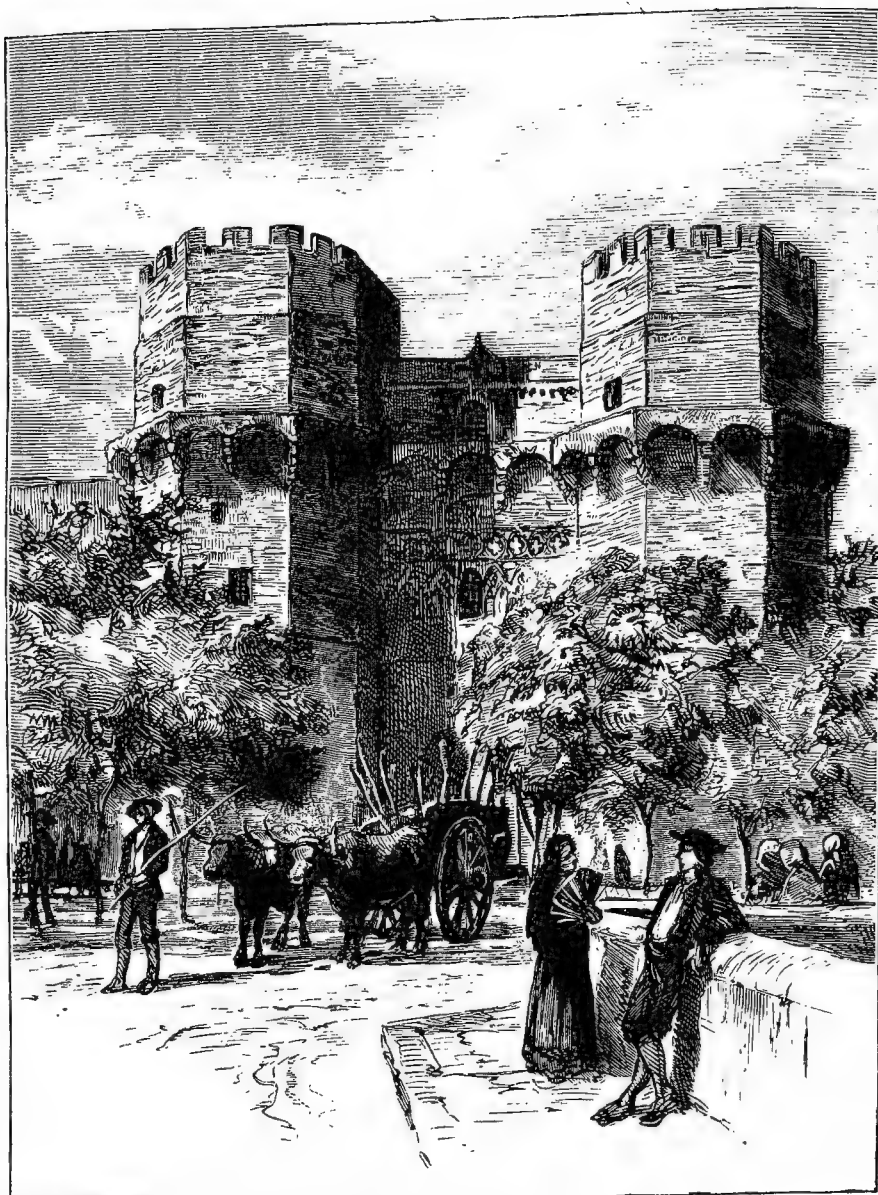
AUSTRIA, though not above taking a hint from Germany, in utilising groundless war-scares to raise money for more fortifications East and South, has found this year no graver work abroad than squabbles with Servia over Commercial Treaties, and disputes with the other riverine Powers about the Presidency of the Danube Commission. The Emperor's tour among the Czechs and Poles was the occasion everywhere of loyal demonstrations. But the old strife in Parliament—so incomprehensible to strangers—between Slav and German, Nationalists and Constitutionalists, has blazed up under Count Taaffe's Administration as furiously as, ten years ago, under Hohenwart's; even the necessary Money Bills being barely passed at the last moment to avoid embarrassments.

In ITALY the Cairoli Ministry, backed heartily by the Crown, has bravely held its own against assaults often more selfish than patriotic, from soured Right or Free Lances of the Left. The oppressive Grist Tax has been slain at last, an Electoral Bill proposed which will increase from 600,000 to 2,000,000 the at present scanty numbers of the enfranchised, and another laid before the House for the return to money payments and the gradual calling-in of the depreciated paper currency. The trust reposed by the Government in the people has been further evidenced by an important scheme for the promotion everywhere of rifle clubs. Though eager to back up Mr. Gladstone in his championship of the oppressed Nationalities of the East, Italy has resisted all temptation to risk her fortunes in adventurous enterprises, and has kept her temper even under the provocation of the high-handed proceedings of France in Tunis. An unambitious policy abroad, at home reduction of the national burdens, and firm, but not unkindly, handling of Republican visionaries and wild Irredentists—two classes much more loud-voiced than numerous—have been the aim of Ministers throughout the year, and Parliament, twice challenged, has on each occasion endorsed their action by substantial Votes of Confidence.

AMERICA.—In the UNITED STATES the steady growth of national wealth has contributed also not a little to the parallel successes of that political party which especially boasts its soundness in finance. At the Chicago Convention the nomination of General Garfield as Republican candidate for the Presidency, though, as usual, a surprise, proved eminently popular—General Grant, whose own nomination had broken down before the invincible repugnance to a "Third Term" President, at once cordially supporting his old subordinate. In November the Republicans triumphed all along the line—gaining a majority of fifteen in the House of Representatives, a "tie" in the Senate, where they had been previously outnumbered,



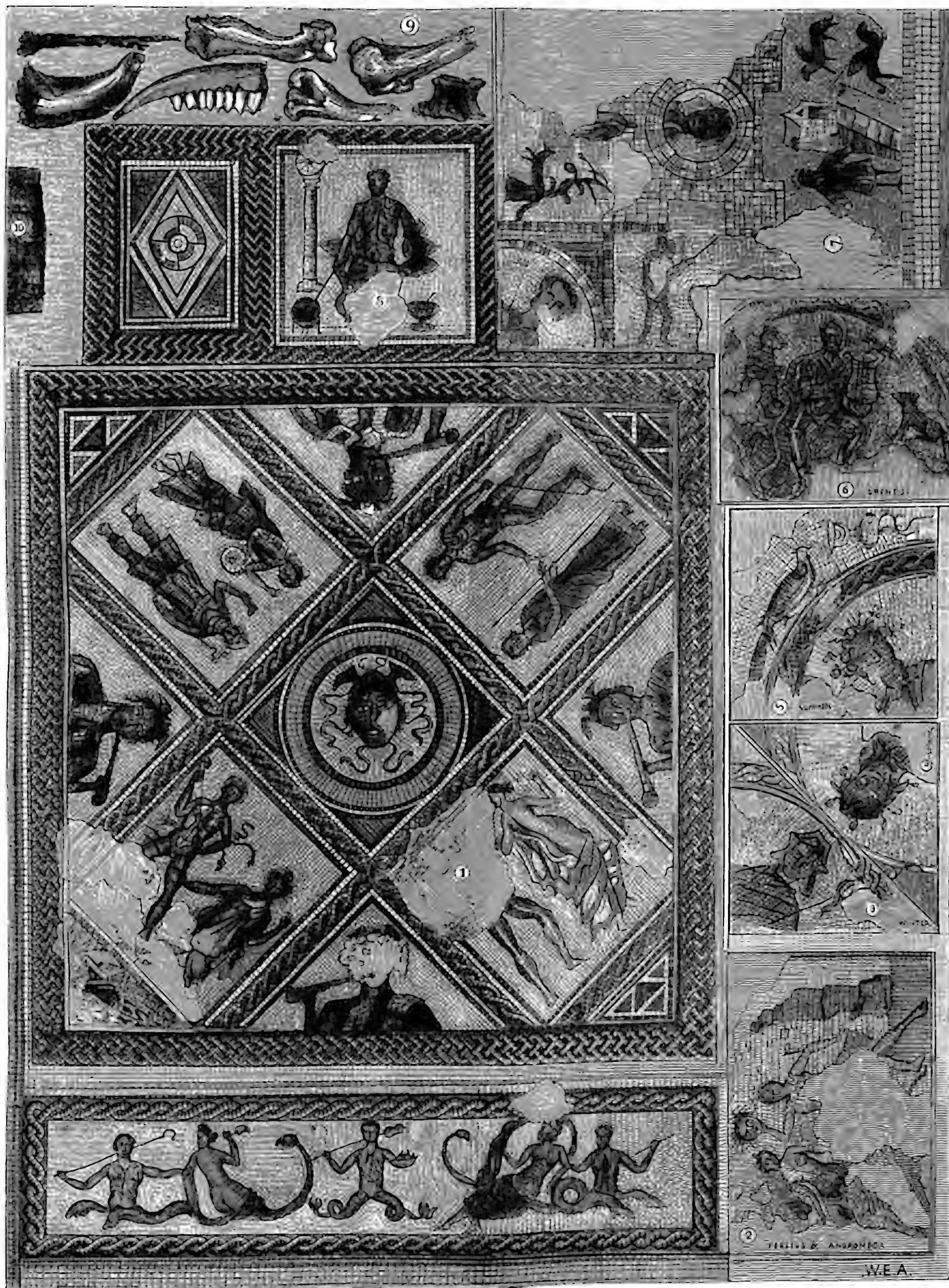
GATEWAY OF STA. MARIA, BURGOS



THE PUERTA DE SERRANOS, VALENCIA



MARKET PLACE AND CHURCH OF SAN JUANES, VALENCIA



1. The Smallest Section of the Reception Room (Eastern End).—2. Perseus and Andromeda.—3 and 4. Two Corners of the Square of the Western Section of the Reception Room: Winter and Spring.—5. Summer.—6. Orpheus.—7. The First Portion Discovered.—8. The Astrologer.—9. Bones of the Dwarf Wild Ox (an Extinct Animal), Piece of the Horn of a Stag, and a Roman Nail.—10. The Foundation Stones of the Arch separating the Two Sections of the Reception Room.

PAVEMENT FOUND AT THE RECENTLY DISCOVERED ROMAN VILLA AT BRADING, ISLE OF WIGHT

and, lastly, carrying their nominee against the Democrats by a majority of fifty-nine in the "heaviest Presidential vote" on record. In other respects the year has been uneventful. A Treaty with China may contribute something to the better solution of the vexed question of Chinese immigration. The Fishery dispute with England has advanced a stage or two (thanks to the conciliatory attitude of our Government) towards the long-desired settlement. M. de Lesseps, though he has convinced the Yankees that his Canal will not imperil the Monroe Doctrine, and has placed 35,000 shares in New York itself, must face a formidable rival in the counter scheme of a Nicaraguan Canal, favoured by Government and General Grant. The genuineness of American sympathy for Irish distress may palliate if it cannot justify the bad taste of the permission given to Mr. Parnell to harangue the House of Representatives, as of the more recent resolution of which Mr. King, a Deputy for Louisiana, has given notice.

In the ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION Civil War has been happily averted by an agreement to recognise Buenos Ayres as the national capital; while in MEXICO, once again represented by an envoy at more than one European Court, the year of a Presidential election has come and gone without a single *pronunciamento*, and capital is again beginning to invade a land which only needs its presence to become one of the most productive in the world.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The Jubilee Year of BELGIAN Independence has been chiefly remarkable for the breaking-off of diplomatic relations with the Vatican on the discovery of something very like double-dealing in the Pope's communications with the refractory Bishops and with the King's Government.—In SWITZERLAND the melancholy suicide through unsound mind of the recently-elected President, Herr Anderwart, has cast a gloom over the last days of the year. In the spring the tunnelling of the St. Gothard was completed, and a train with letters has lately been sent through, accomplishing the passage in about four hours.—The somewhat formidable Kurdish invasion of the PERSIAN provinces has been baffled by the better-offered forces of the Shah, and a demand for the extradition of Sheikh Obeidullah has just been added to the other perplexities of the Porte, who cannot well surrender a sound Mussulman to the tender mercies of Shiite heretics. Though Gordon no longer rules in the Soudan, EGYPT, under European supervision, continues to make satisfactory progress, and will soon, it may be hoped, keep once more within bounds the nefarious slave trade which, since the famous Englishman's resignation, has regained something of its old audacity.



MR. SIMS REEVES'S CONCERT.—St. James's Hall was visited on this occasion by an overflowing and thoroughly enthusiastic audience. This was not to be wondered at with two such names in the programme as those of Emma Albani and the concert-giver, both of whom were happily in full possession of their exceptional means. There was but one drawback to the general satisfaction; and this was the forced absence, from continued indisposition, of Mr. Herbert Reeves, who already begins to assume his father's honoured name as though he had an artistic right to it; and so, if a pure style added to the legitimate production of a tenor voice of pleasing quality, which will increase in volume and strength should he progress as he has begun, he clearly has. Madame Albani's first contribution to the entertainment was the air from *Le Prê aux Clercs*, her singing of which, at the Royal Italian Opera, last summer, was one of the chief features in the representation of Hérold's Italianised work. In this, as at Covent Garden, she had the aid of Mr. Carrodus, Mr. Gye's valued "chef d'attaque," in the violin *obbligato* part. Madame Albani then joined Mr. Sims Reeves in the duet, "Ah morir potessi adesso," from *Ernani*, which was unanimously encored. Subsequently she was similarly honoured in "With verdure clad" (*Creation*), with what exquisite grace and unstudied simplicity she delivers which none need be told who have heard her in Haydn's oratorio. Lastly, Madame Albani treated her hearers to "The Blue Bells of Scotland," showing, not for the first time, that she is equally a proficient in ballad-music as in the higher schools of vocal art. Mr. Sims Reeves was in his happiest mood; and, had he lent a willing ear to the voice of the charmer, might have sung all his pieces twice over. To the encore for Verdi's duet he consented, doubtless, out of sympathy and respect for his accomplished partner; but to repeat three such fatiguing songs as Blumenthal's "Requital," Balfe-Tennyson's "Come into the Garden, Maud," and the formidable "Bay of Biscay," would have been a tax beyond ordinary stamina and nerves. He was called, however, four times back to the platform after Balfe's popular serenade, and as cordially greeted after its companions. During the whole evening, in short, he was at his very best, and what that is need hardly be told. Other songs were vouchsafed by Miss Marion McKenzie and Mr. H. Pyatt, together with glees by the London Vocal Union; while, to vary the programme, Mr. Carrodus played on the violin, with masterly command of the instrument, his own cleverly constructed fantasia on Scotch melodies ("O Nanny, wilt thou gang with me," and "Charlie is my Darling"), accompanied on the pianoforte by Master Carrodus, his son. This was loudly applauded, and the performer recalled. The concert was altogether a success.

MUSIC AT BERLIN (*Correspondence*).—Miss Minnie Hauk has been playing Carmen with great success at the Royal Opera, where she was engaged at the express desire of the Empress of Germany. Intendant Von Hülsen and Herr Richard Wagner having been unable to come to a satisfactory agreement, the *Nibelungen* Tetralogy will not be produced, as had been expected, at the Royal Opera House, but at the Victoria Theater, next May. Wagner stipulated that the official conductor at the Royal Opera House should be superseded in favour of one of his own choice (Herr Niemann); but the Emperor, being consulted, put his veto upon so unexampled an innovation. The "Prophet of the Future" carries things with too high a hand, forgetting—or at least declining to admit—that he is by no means infallible. Where his operas (or "stage dramas") are in question, he usually insists upon an *imperium in imperio*, which in such ordinary matters as theatrical arrangements is simply untenable. Joseph Joachim has given his first Abonnement Concert, with the brilliant result that invariably awaits him, and has also been the presiding spirit at a concert in commemoration of the late Carl Eckert, the programme of which was exclusively devoted to works from Eckert's pen.

WAIFS.—The operatic season in Italy is to be inaugurated by Verdi's *Aida* at four of the leading musical theatres—the Apollo at Rome, the San Carlo at Naples, the Politeama at Genoa (where Verdi is passing the winter season), and the Regio at Parma.—The Italian opera season at Nice opened with the *Huguenots*. It was in this town that Meyerbeer first conceived and began working upon his acknowledged dramatic masterpiece.—The Grand Theatre now in process of erection at Palermo has already entailed an outlay of four million and a half of francs, but will require at least one million in excess to finish it.—Herr Georg Henschel, the well-known and popular bass, is giving "Song-Recitals" at Steinway Hall, New York, where he is a great favourite.—Madame Christine Nilsson is to sing at a grand concert in the Royal Albert Hall, on the 25th

inst. Among the pieces she has selected, in addition to "Tacea la notte," from *Il Trovatore*, are "Robin Adair" and the fine old Scottish ballad, "John Anderson my jo," which all amateurs of genuine and expressive melody will be charmed to hear her sing.—There is some talk of a Spontini "cyclo" of performances at Hamburg, under the enterprising manager, Pollini; but it is apprehended by a large majority of amateurs that the operas of Spontini, despite the enthusiastic advocacy of Berlioz, have—not excepting even the *Vestale* and *Fernand Cortez*—gone out of date. A Gluck "cyclo" would meet with more general approval.—Mr. Mapleson's Italian opera season at the New York Academy of Music has been decidedly successful. It will be followed, as before, by a tour through the principal cities of the United States. The leading members of his company are Mesdames Etelka Gerster and Valleria, Miss Cary (the popular American contralto), Signors Campanini, Raselli, Novara, Del Puente, and Galassi. Boito's *Mefistofele* has been the only novelty of the season; but this created such general interest that it is likely to form the chief attraction of the tour.—At the Paris Opéra Comique a new opera has been produced, called *L'Amour Medecin*, the libretto by M. Monselet, built upon Molière's well-known play, the music by M. Ferdinand Poise, a sort of Lull in modern costume, and an excellent musician, as is well acclaimed. The work was a complete success, and on legitimate grounds. On the same occasion Grétry's still admired *Richard Cœur de Lion* was revived. M. Carvalho, the director of the Opéra Comique, is indefatigable.—Mr. Sims Reeves intends giving four ballad concerts "à l'adieu" previous to his final tour and his last representations in opera.—At Albert Hall, on Boxing night, the perennial *Messiah* was performed to a large audience. The Royal Albert Hall Choral Society rendered excellent service, and the performance generally was far beyond the average. Prince Leopold and Sir Bartle Frere were present.—Mr. John Boosey continues his fifteenth series of London Ballad Concerts to-day, with an afternoon performance in St. James's Hall.—Mr. Arthur Chappell's first Popular Concert of the after-Christmas series is announced for Monday night, when Dvorak's Quartet in E flat will be repeated, and Master Eugène d'Albert again come forward as pianist.—Mr. Carrodus, our English violinist *par excellence*, announces a concert in St. James's Hall, for the evening of the 20th inst., at which he himself will be exclusively the solo performer, his accompanists being Mr. Frank Amor and Master John Carrodus. The programme comprising excerpts from J. S. Bach, Paganini, Spohr, Molique, Ernst, Vieuxtemps, Wieniawsky, Berthold Tours, and the concert-giver, is varied and interesting.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND POLITICS.—Lord Lytton was certainly right in thinking that the subject of the correspondence between himself and Mr. Childers was one of "public interest," and most people, whether agreeing or not with his lordship's views respecting the Afghan War, will have, we imagine, derived some enjoyment from the calm indifference, not untinged with sarcasm, of his reply to the Secretary for War. It will be remembered that Lord Lytton, speaking recently at a Volunteer gathering at St. James's Hall, eulogised General Roberts' exploits in Afghanistan, and wound up with some remarks of a decidedly "controversial" character, which perhaps were not in the best possible taste, considering the circumstances of the occasion and his own position with regard to the subject. The object of Mr. Childers' note was to induce him to tender some sort of apology for having thus offended against the Regulations of the Service; and, seemingly utterly oblivious of the fact that these could be in no way binding upon a man who was not himself a Volunteer, he intimated that if some assurance was not given that the speech was delivered inadvertently and in ignorance of these Regulations, he should request His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief to issue a General Order on the subject. Lord Lytton's response was to the effect that it was no business of his if the Secretary for War chose to do this, though he could not see how his knowledge or ignorance of the regulations could possibly affect the propriety of the Volunteers listening to his speech. Mr. Childers, thereupon, carried out his threat, and the result was the issue of a stringent General Order that when at any meeting of Volunteers matter of a controversial nature is introduced the senior officer present must call the attention of the speaker to the position in which the meeting is placed by the nature of his address, and if this does not avail he must at once dissolve the meeting, and direct the officers and men who are in uniform to withdraw. This extension of an old rule prohibiting Volunteers in uniform from joining in any political discussion or demonstration seems to us to be ridiculous in itself and utterly uncalled for. The Volunteer is a respectable citizen, who has given the best possible proofs of his patriotism and loyalty by taking the oath of allegiance to his Sovereign on his enrolment, and sacrificing much time and some money for the purpose of fitting himself by drill and discipline to become an efficient defender of his country in case of need. Why in the name of common sense should the rights and privileges of such a man be curtailed? Why deprive him of a right universally enjoyed by his less enthusiastic and self-denying fellow-countrymen? Besides, is it not monstrously absurd that John Smith, of the rooth Blankshire, may not go direct from the parade-ground of his corps to attend a political meeting even as a listener, whilst, if he first changes his uniform for private clothing, an operation which may possibly take him five minutes to effect, he is at perfect liberty to mount the platform and orate upon any and every political topic as long as his breath holds out and an audience will listen to him? There is, of course, nothing to be said against the prohibition of meetings of armed men, for no one can tell how much or how suddenly the passions may be inflamed by a violent speech; but the colour and cut of the coat is quite a different matter, and savours something of the absurdity of the ecclesiastical squabbles concerning "vestments." One more word. Is there not something eminently illogical in the strict exclusion of the rank and file of the regular army from the political arena, whilst so many military officers figure prominently on public platforms, and even in Parliament itself?



DECEMBER has on the whole been a favourable month for the farmer. A great deal of outdoor work has been well got through, ploughing is generally well advanced north as well as south of the Humber, while the earlier-sown wheat, already about two inches above ground, looks healthy and of a good colour. A considerable area of land has been manured, ploughed, and prepared for spring beans. Roots have been well got up and stored. Stock have also done well, for there has been an uncommonly late and good feed of grass. Young cattle are thriving, two-year-olds being generally worth more now than at the end of the summer. Sheep also are doing fairly well, though scab and flukes are locally troublesome.

CHRISTMAS was one of the finest days ever remembered for the great midwinter festival. During the night frost was sufficient to coat the ponds with a film of ice, and the fences with a white hoar rime which gradually melted in the bright sunshine, which for six hours shone from a sky almost cloudless, and of a beautiful

light blue tint. In most parts of England the wind was easterly, but not unduly strong or keen, so that a walk on high ground and in the sunshine was extremely exhilarating. The roads were in good condition for travelling, and neither mud on the one hand nor iron rigidity on the other made the ground unpleasant for the numbers of persons paying visits, attending services, or walking about on the day.

THE FIRST HUNT AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY is nearly always an important gathering, and we are glad that the weather this year favoured sport. The day was not bright or genial, but then brightness and an exhilarating air in winter almost always go with frost. Many good runs were obtained, and foxes as a general rule are by no means scarce. The mad folly which has poisoned the hounds and stopped sport in Ireland has increased the attendance at our leading English hunts. Those country gentlemen who have reserved certain coverts for Christmas parties are having good sport, for the past shooting season has by no means exhausted the birds having for the most part been unusually vigorous and strong on the wing.

NEW YEAR'S DAY is now the great Scotch holiday, but apparently this was not so until comparatively recent years. By way of precedent, as it were, for recent Bank Holiday legislation it was not the first day but the first Monday in the year which was celebrated with revelry and free consumption of the national usquebaugh. The day was called Hansell Monday, and festivities began as the clock struck twelve on Sunday night. The New Year is now in many districts welcomed in by midnight religious services, after which the earlier hours of New Year's Day are spent in conviviality. This is a return to the true mediæval spirit. It is still considered unlucky to wear entirely old clothes on New Year's Day, though the custom of presenting new silver has almost died out. We know people who still at midnight throw open all the doors and windows "to let the New Year in."

THE FAILURE AND DEATH OF MR. MECHI have excited general sympathy, not only on account of the veteran agriculturist's very advanced age, but also in consequence of the marked ability with which he kept up to the spirit of the times, and the steadfast cheerfulness with which he prosecuted the difficult and oftentimes discouraging work of scientific farming. His last days were softened by expressions of sympathy from all parts of England.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE continues to prevail in many different parts of England. Suffolk and Norfolk are the counties most affected, many hundreds of animals being diseased in these two counties alone. Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Cumberland have each several cases to report, while disease has been spread from East Grinstead Market throughout the county of Sussex, and from Bristol to various parts of Somersetshire and Gloucestershire. Northamptonshire is also an infected county, though how the contagion reached that inland district does not appear. The outbreak of disease in Hertfordshire has been particularly noticeable from having affected the famous Showle Court Herd.

GEOLOGY.—The York Museum has acquired, for the relatively small sum of 800*l.*, a wonderfully fine collection of fossils, the property of the late Mr. Wood of Richmond, and acquired by him through many years of devotion to geological and palæontological pursuits.



JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—The Mayor of Manchester has forwarded to the Home Secretary the report of the Manchester Juvenile Offenders' Executive Committee, which suggests amongst other things that the utmost possible freedom of action and of choice of punishment should be accorded to magistrates in dealing with juvenile offenders; that the statute law with respect to certified reformatory and certified industrial schools should be revised and amended; that no one under fourteen years of age should be sent to a common gaol, except in grave cases; that in large towns special places of detention for young offenders should be established; that no child guilty of larceny should be convicted of felony, but of misdemeanour only; that the casual employment clause of the Elementary Education (Scotland) Act (1878) should be made applicable to England and Wales; that an order to birch should only be given by two justices, or by a stipendiary magistrate, with the sanction of a medical man; and that, as in many cases parental neglect or misconduct conduces to the offence, the Court should have power to proceed against the person who causes the offence as well as against the juvenile offender; and, further, that as many offences are committed by juveniles through want, arising from parental neglect, the Court should have power to proceed against either or both parents for gross neglect of family, whether or not the dependents may have become chargeable to the parish.

THE PERAMBULATOR NUISANCE has often been the subject of just complaint, and it is well that it should be known that though the police do not intend to act on the strict letter of the law, by turning them into the carriage-way, where alone they have any legal right, people are not to be permitted to drive them *à la abréast* on the pavement to the inconvenience and danger of pedestrians. Two nurse-girls who were guilty of this offence have just been fined at the Hammersmith police-court.

RAILWAY SERVANTS DRUNK ON DUTY.—Two railway employees have this week been fined 5*l.* and 10*l.* respectively for having been intoxicated whilst on duty. The one, an engine-driver, was lying asleep on his engine when his train ran into the station; and the other, a pointsman, was found insensible in his box, past which it was stated more than a hundred trains would run during the time he would have been in charge.

A FOOLISH FARMER at Bridlington has been swindled out of 100*l.* by a gipsy woman, who promised to "rule his planet" so that he would receive "untold millions" in return. She told him to wait until midnight with all the doors of his house open, and then a huge chest of gold would rise from the floor. He, of course, watched in vain, and the police are now in search of the impudent astrologer.

AN UNFOUNDED CHARGE.—A few weeks ago a young woman was committed for trial by the Greenwich magistrate on a charge of stealing a valuable silver mounted dagger belonging to a lady at whose house she had called to sell furniture polish. The lady has since found the dagger locked up in a cabinet, and reported the fact to the magistrate, but the matter having gone beyond his jurisdiction, an application will have to be made to the Central Criminal Court to set the matter right. It is to be hoped that the accused is at liberty on bail, as otherwise we suppose she would have to remain in prison until the commencement of the next Assizes.

A BURGLARIOUS MONKEY was caught at Warrington a few nights ago by a provision dealer, into whose shop he had contrived to make his way, and whose family were much alarmed by the terrible clatter he made amongst the jam-jars and pickle-jars.

A CLERGYMAN OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND was the other day charged with having threatened to shoot Mr. Thorney, the Borough Coroner of Hull. He admitted the threats, but declared that he had no intention of carrying them out, and was therefore simply bound over to keep the peace.

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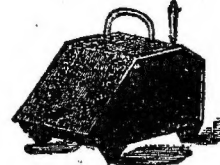
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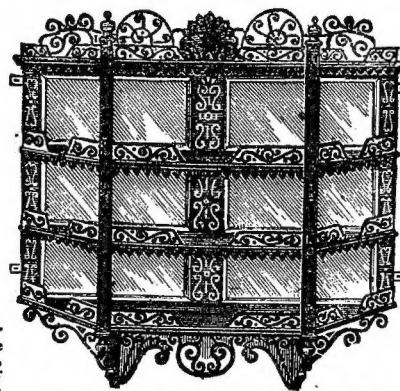
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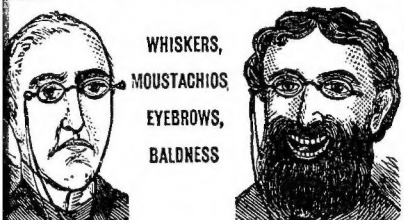


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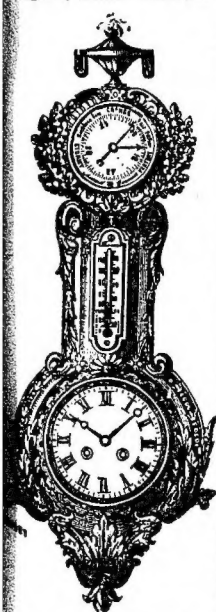
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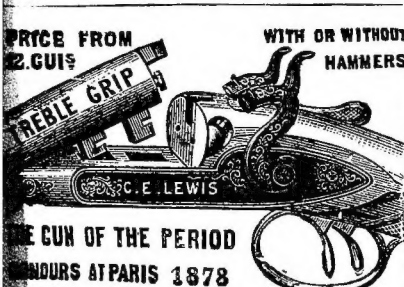
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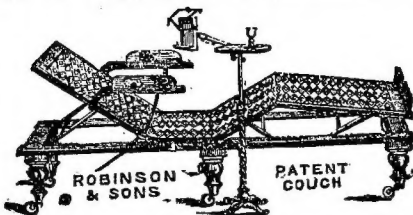
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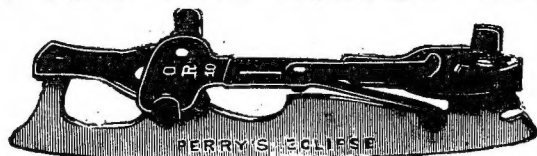
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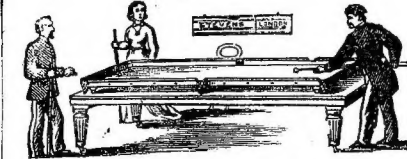
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